Calvin Green's Discourses
Illustrating the System of the Gospel.
Copied by John Wood, a young
Believer in 1833.

PAPERS
OF
SHAKERS
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New Lebanon

for the area under a curve, made under the Lord's

The first appearing of Christ. and The Primitive Church, To the falling away.

As the spirit of Christ is the only Saviour, the only true light to lead souls to the real knowledge and favor of God; and as there is "no other name, or substance, given under heaven among men, whereby any can be saved" from sin, and raised from a fallen nature; hence it follows, without all controversary, that until Christ made his appearance into the world, the world was in darkness, and consequently without the real power of salvation and redemption. Whatever light might have been received by the spirit of inspiration respecting the work of salvation in a future day, yet there was none who could attain that salvation, but they hoped for it in a future day; according to the prophet Isaiah: "We have been in pain, we have as it were brought forth wind, we have not wrought any deliverance in the earth." And the Lord saw that there was no intercessor; therefore his own arm brought salvation unto him, and his righteousness it sustained him. Isaiah 26-18 and 59-16. Thus mankind being destitute of the power of salvation, Jesus Christ, in the fullness of time, came into the world to save his people from their sins, and to redeem them from the power of him who was stronger than they: that is, to destroy the works of the devil in all that were willing to receive and be led by his spirit.

But though Jesus Christ took the nature of man upon him through the medium of his natural birth,* yet he came not of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. Hence though he came into the world, yet he did not become of the world; but that nature which he ~~took upon him~~ inherited ~~him~~ he denied, in all its propensities, rejected all its inclinations, & held it to the cross until he completely overcame and slew it: and this work was

* "For he was made of a woman, made under the Law"

never done before†. Hereby* he laid the foundation of salvation and redemption for all souls in following his example. But as this life of self denial was contrary to the whole corrupt nature of the world, and as the prince of this world hath nothing in Christ, hence none of his subjects could have any thing in Christ; therefore they hated his life and doctrines, and persecuted him unto death; hoping thereby to destroy its effects upon their consciences. Nevertheless a few honest souls knew it to be the time of their visitation, and received him as the true Mesciah.

Among these he chose Apostles and Ministers, who were ordained to bear witness of him, and to preach those true principles of Godliness manifested in and through him. Thus, though the world crucified the saviour, they could not destroy his work; but after he had finished his personal work on earth, and ascended to the right hand of his Father, he sent the Holy Spirit of truth, which anointed his Apostles and Ministers, by which they were endued with power to preach the glad tidings of salvation to all who were willing to hear and obey, and through their ministry many believed who were built into a Church, wherein was manifested that love, charity, benevolence, and those good fruits which had never been seen before among men. They were divested of those selfish, partial principles, which govern the natural man; so that the rich and poor fared alike, and love was the only bond of their union. For this oneness and union was effected by no other power than the one spirit of Christ, operating in all his members. Here was first shown the order of that sanctuary, or "tabernacle which the Lord pitched and not man" Heb 8-2. Here were offered spiritual sacrifices, "Holy, acceptable unto God" Rom 12-1. These were "a kind of first fruits unto God" and were a pattern of the true order of the work of God in Christ's second appearing: But that order did not long continue.

* "Having (his own arm) wrought salvation, & his righteousness sustained him" Isa 63-5
† "Therefore (his own arm) brought salvation unto him; that hath the power over death, that is, the devil" Heb 2-14

It gradually fell away, until the true foundation was lost from off the earth, and the gentiles, or fallen nature of man, got the dominion and "polluted the sanctuary of strength" by establishing a form of godliness without the power. This was signified by the angel to St. John: "And there was given me a reed like unto a rod. And the angel said, "Arise and measure the temple of God, and the Altar, and them that worship therein: but the court that is without the temple, leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the gentiles, and the holy city shall they tread under foot, forty and two months" Rev. 11-1-2.

This measure doubtless referred to the time in which that order should stand in a sufficient body to constitute the true Church who maintained the pure faith of self denial, and worshiped God in the inner court, by being separated from the rudiments of the world, and sacrificed the unclean passions of nature upon the altar of self denial. (Observe the Jewish temple was a type of the true Church, or gospel temple.) Into the inner court, called the holy place, none could enter, save those who were cleansed according to the law. There the golden altar stood whereon incense was offered. This was typical of the spiritual worship of the saints, who were cleansed from the corruptions of a fallen nature, and offered the incense of prayer and thanksgiving from a pure heart Rev 8. 3

But the outer court was where the Gentiles who professed to worship the God of Israel might come, and present their offerings which were offered to God by the priest; and through that means they found a certain relation to the work of God in that day, though they did not receive circumcision, the seal of the covenant or submit to the whole law. But the part within the vail was considered most holy. A type of "the heaven of heavens". Where none but the order of high priests could enter, and that not without blood and pure incense - which having done he came forth & delivered

the mind and blessing of God to the people: showing that the revelation of God must come forth according to the order of God from the heavenly world. This whole order was particularly figurative of the order of the work of God in Christ first appearing. The revelation of God had come forth from heaven "within the vail" yet few entered, even within the holy place, that is to live a spiritual life, and come into spiritual order.

The primitive Church at Jerusalem, was built upon the principles of a separation from the rudiments of the world; especially from sexual coition and selfish interest. "All who believed were together, and had all things common". It is plain that a consecrated and united interest cannot be fully maintained with the natural connections of husbands, wives and children; because that relation is partial, and regards the use and distribution of property to natural connections. The primitive Church, by sacrificing the pleasures and connections of a fleshly nature, entered into the inner court: here they worshipped God in spirit, and sacrificed upon that pure altar of which none can partake who live after the flesh. But the great body of the Gentiles who believed in that day, were gathered no nearer the spiritual temple and work of God, than those Gentiles who worshipped the God of Israel, were to the Jewish temple: that is, they forsook the worship of the heathen deities, & believed that Jesus Christ was the Messiah, and forsook the licentious practices of other Gentiles; and thus they found a relation to the work of God, according to the measure of their faith. Nevertheless as they maintained the natural connections and works of the flesh, they were carnal; hence they were not within the measure of the spiritual temple and altar. This was clearly the case with the great body of the Corinthians, to whom St. Paul saith, "And, I brethren could not speak unto you, as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal." "For ye are yet carnal" These were brought

no further than to the order of nature, which was the outer court that was the court of the gentiles. The order of the primitive Church was kept in a good degree, so long as there was a body kept together who maintained the cross of Christ, by denying the works of a fleshly nature.# But the spirit of antichrist early began to work and corrupt the Church.

By antichrist is meant a spirit against Christ, acting in his name. This spirit began its career by introducing into the Church the natural sagacity of man to lead and direct, instead of the Holy Spirit. The labor of those "deceitful workers" who early began to appear in the Church, was to explain away the practical parts of the precepts and example of Christ; teaching that they could not be as "Christ is in this world", but could be his disciples and live in sin, and after the rudiments of the world. They also wrested the doctrines of Christ and his Apostles so as to draw a mysterious vail over them. Thereby placing the gospel in mystery above the reasonable understanding, they labored to accommodate it to their carnal views. That this began to be the case even in the Apostles times, will appear by a careful perusal of their writings. Thus St. Paul; "For many walk, of whom I have told you, even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ," again, "such are ministers of satan transforming themselves into the ministers of righteousness". In them was, "Satan transformed into the appearance of an angel of light"; by professing great veneration for the name and doctrines of Christ; pretending conversion and regeneration, whilst they lived in all the propensities of fallen nature. Thus St. John, "As ye have heard that antichrist should come, even now are there many antichrists". Again, "let no man deceive you, he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he (Christ) is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the Devil". And from St. Jude it is also plain, that ungodly men had crept

and keeping apart from the ambition & government of the world

unawares into the Church, who turned "the grace of God into lasciviousness." It is plain that these deceivers professed the christian name, and were pretended members of the Church, for otherways they could have had no influence in the Church; and though they were sharply reproved, yet they could not be rooted out by the authority of the Apostles themselves: For by "corrupting by flatteries such as did wickedly against the holy covenant." Antichrist, "the little horn" spoken of by Daniel. Chap 7-8 gradually obtained the ascendancy in the Church.

The first of those deceitful workers that sought to accommodate the doctrines of the gospel to the spirit and customs of the Gentiles, who gained an ascendancy in the Church, was Diotrephes, "who loved to have the preeminence 3 John 9. and he had actually obtained it, even whilst St. John lived to such a degree, that he would not receive the brethren himself, and forbid those that would, and cast them out of the Church, "because for the name of God they went forth, taking nothing from the Gentiles." Then if antichrist had ministers in the Church, who had so great preeminence that they could cast those out who would not receive the principles of the Gentiles, and whose influence nothing short of St. John's personal presence could control, what sort of a Church must remain, when the beloved disciple was taken away? These principles of Diotrephes influenced, less or more, all the long train of false teachers who followed him; and who gradually gained the ascendancy in the Church, and corrupted every principle of gospel purity, until by degrees, the most pure doctrines that were taught or maintained in the Catholic Church were those indulgencies given to the carnal Corinthians, and their Church was established upon those principles (excepting some spurious institutions in pretended imitation of the primitive

Church.) They also adopted every principle of the Gentiles which they could cloak under their hypocritical profession. Here they all fell into the "outer court, which was given to the Gentiles", and thus the way was prepared for an union of Church and State, which is the very essence of antichrists kingdom. But the Gentiles did not obtain full possession of the outer court in the holy city, so as to blend the Church and world in one, until the time of Constantine, called the great; when it was effected by the civil and ecclesiastical powers being united. But the Gentiles had not yet trodden "down the holy city," nor "polluted the sanctuary of strength:" for though the self stiled mineral methodist Church, had taken from the Gentiles the power and government of the world, yet they had not obtained the power of persecution, so as to "accomplish to scatter the power of the holy people;" for there still remained a faithful few who maintained in a great measure the order and powers of the primitive Church. These held possession of the holy city; that is, they kept the true ground of the principles of the Church; therefore the triumph of antichrist was not complete; for so long as there was a sufficient number kept together to maintain the order of the Apostolick Church, there was the sanctuary where the saints offered the daily sacrifice. Hence the daily sacrifice had not yet ceased.

By these the way into the temple, and to the altar was kept open, and made accessible to man. But when the whole body, except a few scattered witnesses, fell into the outer court, and blended the principles of nature with a profession of christianity, then antichrist and the gentiles got the dominion; and by concentrating the civil and ecclesiastical powers, and being supported by the military, or sword, this little horn in the beast, persecuted the witnesses of truth, "scattered the power of the holy

people) and by this means trod under foot the holy city, and "cast down the place of the sanctuary to the ground"; that is, to an earthly nature, where he founded his false church. Then the daily sacrifice ceased; and the overspreading of abomination that followed, made the Catholic Church desolate of the principles of truth, and power of salvation. Dan. 9-7. Then the way into the temple, and to the altar was shut. Here commenced the long and dreary reign of antichrist, and his kingdom was estab=lished in the beast.

The religion thus established by these Ministers of anti=christ, in the name and stead of the true gospel of Christ; consisted of creeds and confessions of faith formed by carnal sagacity. All tending to avoid the cross against a fallen nature. Made to establish the belief, that salvation did not depend upon doing the will of God, and following the footsteps of Jesus Christ; but in speculative tenets and sophistical dogmas - Of a trinity; of Christ suffering in the room and stead of sinners - The resurrection of human bodies, instead of the resurrection of the soul from the death of Adam into the life of Christ. Of eternal decrees; unconditional election and reprobation, and in many superstitious ceremonies, instead of a life of righteous=ness. All having a direct tendency to overthrow the doctrine of salvation by bearing the cross of Christ, and living a life of simple obedience to his spirit, and to support the propensities & passions of fallen nature, instead of crucifying and destroying them. Yet such unscriptural doctrines they were all bound to profess, or be excommunicated from this "Great Babylon" and as far as was in their power from all human society, and were sentenced to <u>Eternal Damnation.</u>

And when this self stiled Queen of the kings of the earth, had gotten the power of the sword, (or dragon, that gave her the power) she foretasted the torments of this damned state by all imaginable

tortures, as far as was in the power and ingenuity of her children. And she propagated the kingdom of the beast by pious frauds; pretended miracles, and bloody wars and persecutions; all at pointed variance with the very genius of the religion established by Christ and the Apostles. Yet this pretended orthodox and universal Church; is the prolific Mother of what is called "The Christian World". For all its denominations are founded on the basis of the doctrines invented in the Catholic Church, and all their systems of Church government descended from her; however much they may have reformed in matters of minor importance. Therefore all the divided Churches and sects in this great antichristian kingdom, (heretics excepted) are her legetimate daughters, and all national religions are her offspring; and are so many images of the Beast. Well therefore was she stiled in the language of Revelation, "The great, the Mother of harlots, and abominations of the earth — with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication.

The Reign of Antichrist and Kingdom of the Beast.

The real Reign of antichrist commenced about the year 457. although the way had been for a long time preparing, yet it did not actually commence till this period, when it began in the person of Pope Leo, the first. By recurring to ecclesiastical history, we shall find no period, which the concurrence of events, so clearly points out, as the commencement of his actual Reign; for about this time the Roman Empire was over run by the Barbarians; but when their kings saw the credit of Leo, bishop of Rome, with the people, they left him in full possession of his power; and by degrees, he obtained greater power than all the kings who ever run the Empire just together. For these kings yielded obeisance to, and supported him in order to increase their influence with the people, & secure the stability of their Governments.

Thus Leo, being established bishop of Rome, and pretending to hold his power in a regular descent from St. Peter, was considered as the first bishop of the church universal, & had an exalted preeminence above all other bishops; for although the bishop of Constantinople long afterwards received the title of universal bishop, yet it only served to increase the power of the Bishop of Rome; because by other Bishops referring their disputes to him, and by the concurrence of circumstances, he finally obtained the ascendency; and increasing in power, he at length concentrated the civil and ecclesiastical powers in the Catholic Church. And being thus exalted and supported by the millitary power, he began to devise ways and means to bind the consciences of the whole Christian world. Thus he framed creeds, established systems, enacted laws, and promulgated doctrines, for universal faith and practice; thus he assumed divine power & authority, and established religion by his own arbitrary power, & supported it with the sword of persecution. How strikingly was such a compound of civil, millitary, and ecclesiastical power described by the Apostle; "That wicked who opposeth & exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped as such; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing that he is God". And how does he show this? Because he governs man who is created to be the temple of God, and ought to be subject to God. And truly antichrist assumed a power which God never assumed; and therefore could never authorize others to assume.

It was the device and work of the beastly power of antichrist to assume authority over the consciences of men, to frame creeds and articles of faith, to demand assent & enforce obedience under the severest penalties, however unreasonable,

however contrary to the sober dictates of conscience, or to the law of God; or how cruel and oppressive soever to the subjects.

But God claims no power to deal thus with his rational creatures. It is through the medium of conscience that God communicates his will to man. If the conscience be dark & ignorant, he enlightens it. He condescends to address the reason of man: "Come now and let us reason together saith the Lord." Isa. 1-18. God is a reasonable Being; and all his requirements are reasonable. He never will condemn man for not believing and practicing beyond the light and dictates of his own conscience after using his best means to obtain light. God never requires any practice, profession or worship of man, which does not come from a knowledge and sense of duty. His requirements are on this wise; "To whom much is given, much is required", consequently, to whom little is given, little is required. Conscience is the throne of God in man, or seat of Divine reflection and influence; the liberty of conscience is a sacred right, which no power on earth has any right to take away or abridge; therefore whoever, or whatever assumes control over the conscience, and attempts to coerce it in ever so small a degree, to enforce profession and conduct contrary to reasonable light communicated through the conscience to the mind, is so far governed by that spirit of antichrist, who usurps the throne of God, and oppposeth and exalteth itself above all that is of the true God. Yet this is the kind of profession & worship which the beastly power of antichrist has ever claimed; for though his requirements were never so contrary to reason, and the sober dictates of conscience, yet decided consent, and absolute obedience must be paid thereto; & whoever refused, must be persecuted with all imaginable tortures, even unto death. This spirit in the Catholic Church,

claimed dominion over all the earth; and as far as pious frauds, sophistical arguments, indulgences & military force could extend their dominion, they assumed the same control over the reasons and consciences of men. Thus antichrist prefigured by "the little horn" in the beast, "which had eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things." (Dan. 7-8.)# waxed exceeding great; and the same horn made war with the saints, & overcame and prevailed against them. Here antichrist in the Gentiles got the dominion; trod down the holy city, and set up "the abomination that maketh desolate:" that is, makes souls desolate of the fruits of godliness by establishing "a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof" 2 Tim. 3-5. This was predicted by Jesus Christ, "when ye see the abomination that maketh desolate, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not (let him that readeth understand) Mark 13-14. Here was a special caution given to understand. But if the event referred to the literal destruction of Jerusalem and the temple only; there was no danger in mistaking it. Then why this caution and reference to Daniel? If we reflect upon the description given of Jerusalem and the temple, and the persecuting conduct of the Jews towards Christ and his followers, we shall see that their desolation stood where it ought, instead of where it ought not. Hence this prophecy had a particular allusion to the establishment of the Church of antichrist, in the name and stead of the true Church, wherein "the little horn magnified himself against the prince of the host", even against Christ, though in his name; by which means he cast down some of the host, and of the stars to the ground. This signifies the fall of the Church and the witnesses of truth.

The falling away of the Church was signified

for the antichrist of this prophecy is the same as the eighth of this sort & the great things he shall do are his power; that were all carried to promote the pride & carnal passions of man. by these means he

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by the great earthquake described at the opening of the sixth seal. Rev. 6-12. for truly about this time commenced such a night of darkness as never was before on earth. This earthquake was the operation of earthly principles, which had been gathering more and more until their attraction to the elements of nature was stronger in the Church than any heavenly power which they retained. Then these principles rent the Church to pieces and cast it to the earth (to the world) and this same earthquake caused the fall of the stars from heaven, or the witnesses of truth, during the whole reign of antichrist. At this earthquake "the Sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the Moon became as blood" signifying that the light of the Sun of righteousness (It is inconsistent to suppose that the natural Sun will ever become black as sackcloth of hair) became like total darkness in the Church of antichrist; and the loss of the light and true foundation of the Church covered the witnesses of truth with mourning and darkness, signified by sackcloth. The light of nature is represented by the Moon because it is borrowed light, and by its becoming as blood, is a most emphatical description of the bloody principles which prevailed in those dark ages, when the greatest genius and talents of the nature of man was turned to the profession of arms; and his highest glory consisted in his prowess in shedding the blood of his fellow men in wars and persecutions under a religious name which deluged the earth, and which has been the greatest scourge and terror to man of any thing ever exhibited in this world.

Some may doubt this explanation, because wars existed before the time of antichrist. But from the period that the reign of antichrist was established for several hundred years,

the greatest darkness prevailed that ever prevailed on earth: spread through the world by Christian and Mahometan professors. Man seemed to neglect even the arts and sciences of nature. The greatest infatuation prevailed that ever prevailed since man was created. Even natural Reason seemed to have no place; and the most horrid and unreasonable wars and persecutions were practised that ever was known. Well might it be said then, that the light of nature "became as blood" as well as that all Religious light, was shrouded in darkness like sackcloth of hair; It is therefore with the greatest propriety that this period has been termed the dark ages. The proper period to date this great earthquake in its full effect, or the real beginning of the dark ages, was about the year 700. when the Pope first began temporal dominion; his influence gradually extended through all Christendom, and the Mahometan power was at its Zenith of conquest, and the northern barbarians had established their dark reign through the whole Roman empire. It continued till the Reformation in the 16th century. But amidst all this confusion of peoples, nations, and tongues; the Catholic hierarchy was established by these bloody principles, with power over the lives and consciences of men.

In the progress of this antichristian hierarchy was fully exhibited the beast described in Rev 13. He arose out of the sea, signifying the troubled nations of the world, or the depths of a fallen nature; for "the waters on which the whore sitteth are peoples, nations and tongues" & she was carried by the beast.

It has been usual for expositors to explain this beast altogether in the historical or external sense. In this sense it represented the Roman empire; more particularly after it was over run by the Barbarians; and was made up of seven principal nations, or tongues, represented by heads, & divided

into ten kingdoms, which were represented by horns. It is remarkable that Christendom, notwithstanding all their revolutions have maintained nearly this same division and balance of powers. The balance of power, so much attended to in Europe, is nothing less nor more than keeping up the order of the Beast. But the pope at the head of the Catholic church, in the ancient seat of the empire at length gained such power that he in effect, governed the whole, and thus the spiritual power, or ecclesiastical influence supplied the place of the military power of the Roman emperors. This is represented by the Dragon giving his power to the beast; & thereby his deadly wound was healed; for this healed the wound given to that empire by the sword of the Barbarians; & the pope at length became a temporal prince, and concentrated in the Catholic hierarchy, the civil, military and ecclesiastical powers. This exhibited the beast in full force, governed by antichrist; for the Catholic church was the whore of Babylon which sat upon the beast. This the spirit described by saying And the beast, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, that is, the Catholic church became of itself a temporal power, supported by all the nations in what was called the Holy Roman Empire; and into this church the powers of all were entered; "And all the world wondered after the beast; and power was given him over all nations, kindreds and tongues." Although there have ever been some nations and people who did not acknowledge the supremacy of the pope, nor the Catholic Church, yet the principles of that Religion do, by various means, influence nearly all nations in the known world. And when we consider that that Religion sanctions all the beastly propensities of human nature, we shall find that all natural men throughout the world are under their power. Hence they all "wondered after the beast."

But all this outward manifestation of the beast is only the figure; the antitype of the beast is human nature, or fallen natural man, considered as male and female; for all the works and inventions of man, in all his systems of governments, and organization of power on earth, is but exhibiting himself, and bringing forth what is in human nature. Thus the beast is but the figure of fallen man; which is plainly shown by the following quotation; "Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast; for it is the number of man; and his number is 666. Rev 13-18. Hence if all the numbers of the beast are found in man, and is the number of man, then fallen man must certainly constitute the beast. Thus the wisdom spoken of consists in discovering what these numbers really are.

Head, in the figurative language of scripture, signifies principle power or source. Thus the seven heads of the beast must be, the seven principle powers, or sources of human nature in man. namely, his five natural senses, together with the two sensitive powers of speech and understanding. These two last are sensitive faculties peculiar to man, without which human nature could not constitute a being capable of rational powers. The soul of man is also endowed with seven rational powers, which act in the seven principles of his natural organization, (and though there may be various names given to express the substance of these rational powers yet we shall class them as follows; 1st Perception, the power of receiving an idea, 2nd Memory, or retention, 3rd invention, or contrivance, 4th calculation, 5th consideration, 6th Judgment, 7th Determination.) Without these, man could not be a rational being.

A horn in scripture is put for power or strength, or an operating principle: Hence the ten horns of the beast, are ten operating principles in man, by which he acts out the feelings of his nature. These may be called his passions, because it is through the passions that man acts out his nature; & ascending to the spirit by which his passions are guided, he brings forth good or evil words and works.

By a careful examination of human nature it may be seen, that whatever he acts or speaks, is but the operation of some passion or passions: and as his passions operate in favor of whatever is agreeable to their inclinations: so they equally operate against whatever is contrary to their inclinations. Hence the inherant passions in man are evidently the horns of human nature; and by whatever names they may be called to express their peculiar quality; there are but ten of those inherant passions to be found in man. These are in five divisions, balanced one by the other.

We shall denominate them by the following names: 1st Affection; balanced by hatred; 2nd Hope, fear, 3rd joy, sorrow, 4th Desire, anger, 5th Zeal, fortitude; These are various operations in the mind of man, which are sometimes called passions; yet they are but the effects or combinations of his ten inherent passions. Man in his fallen state, being in an earthly nature, and all his faculties and passions being influenced by the power of the Dragon, "or wicked one". This spirit works through lust and pride; and generates Ambition, Wars, Bloodshed, Persecution in particular, as well as every evil work. This constitutes in him the real beast, agreeable to the testimony of Solomon: "Man hath no preeminence above the beast" Eccles. 3, 19. And natural men, led by the wicked

one, the Apostle calls, "evil beasts"; and to such he alludes when he says, "I have fought with beasts." Beasts are led by the propensities of an earthly nature; so also is man in his fallen state. Hence the combinations of fallen men into systems and governments, constitutes the kingdom of the beast: and as antichrist, through lust and pride established a Religion adapted to all the passions and propensities of man's fallen nature, and by that means obtained the government of natural men, and formed them into one great hierarchy; this formed the kingdom of antichrist in the beast; and thus the beast carried the scarlet colored whore; because she was carried by the combinations of men in earthly nature. & that Religion was supported by bloody wars and persecutions, which made the whore Red as scarlet. And made the beast also "that carried her" of the same color.

To complete the number of the beast, "let him that hath understanding count" the various ways and manners which antichrist operates in natural man to accomplish his purposes, and the number will be found to be 666. Then let him consider that antichrist cannot work in man in any manner where man has not a faculty or channel capable of the operation, and he will thus find the number of man to be 666. Hence the number of the beast, is the number of man.

The second beast came up out of the earth. This particularly alluded to the Reformation, or protestant church, which was established in the same earthly nature, though in a different form. The Reformation arose by favor of the contentions of earthly powers against the exactions of the Pope and his satellites; for without the support of temporal princes the contentions of the ecclesiastics, which caused the Reformation,

would soon have been crushed by the pope, and the protestant church could not have arisen. | "And he had two horns like a lamb." This means, that the reformation split into two great parties, namely, Lutheranism and Calvinism; whose principles have more or less influenced all their succeeding divisions. "And he spake as a Dragon." Protestantism has been defended by the sword, and its different parties have generally shown in word and in work the most bitter animosity towards each other, and towards all who differed from them. But their persecuting spirit has been more manifested by words, for want of the universal power of persecution which the Roman church once possessed. | Having horns like a lamb, and speaking like a dragon, shows, that although the protestant reformers professed to restore the meek and inoffensive religion of Jesus, yet in reality their doctrines supported the principles of the dragon; envy, wrath, strife, and the persecuting sword. Thus savoring under a religious cloak, the corruptions of the passions and propensities of a fallen nature. The beast, the two horns of this beast, were the two influences of the systems of Lutheranism and Calvinism. And the protestant cause was supported by the two powers or horns of England, and the protestant princes of Germany; by the sword or power of "the Dragon", otherwise the reformation would never have succeeded; well then was it said "He spake as a dragon." | Hence, "he exercised all the power of the first beast, and caused the earth and them who dwell therein, to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed". But did this second beast cause the world to worship the Roman empire or Catholic church? Nay; but he caused the world to worship a fallen nature, by living in all its propensities under a Christian profession.

except'n minor subjects

The protestants did not pretend to reform the Religion; but only the Government of the Catholic Church. But all their creeds and systems binds their subjects to profess and support the fundamental dogmas established in the Catholic church, and excludes them from post of honor and profit and Religious communion sooner for refusing such assent, than for the grossest immorality - so appropriate then is the Revelation -

p. This beast caused all to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed by the great Religious establishment - The reign of antichrist in the beast was thus continued. "And he doeth great wonders; so that he maketh "fire to come down from heaven in the sight of men." But how is this effected? Did they cause real fire to come down from heaven? Nay: but it was so to the sight or sense of natural man. This was done by affecting great Religious Zeal, and by laying claim to a divine authority to restore and establish a Religion which they

p. pretend is of a heavenly origin. Thus they deceive them who dwell on the earth, (when in nature) and cause them to believe their Religion is the real heavenly fire, or the purity and light of the gospel; and hereby cause them to settle down in a form of Religion which makes provision for all the works of nature and leaves them destitute of the life of Christ. This is really teaching them to "make an image to the first beast; because by these means they form churches, whose members live in all the works of fallen nature: and opinions and principles are thereby established, which every principle of Reason and truth, were they left free to act in the mind, would condemn.

The protestant Reformers, though they pretended to restore the undefiled Religion of Christ, yet would never admit that man could rise in this life out of a fallen nature: but

* and taken part with the Government of the world,

say they, "the corruptions of nature do remain in this life in those who are regenerated." What then is their religion, but the religion of the beast? Yet such corrupt souls they call the members of Christ: and they deceive mankind, so that they believe it to be so. Thus their church is formed in the very image of the beast; and their false principles, under a cloak of religion, give souls a false hope, and darkens them so that they do not feel just condemnation for sin; and thus gives them life in the very nature of the beast; hence their life is the life of the beast, and not the life of Christ. This life is also given in a great measure, by forced, and man made removals of religion; whereby great excitement and agitation, the passions get so wrought up as to produce some appearance of divine power and operations; and thus effect spurious conversions. And also where there may be some real power and divine fire at work among the people: these ministers of antichrist, by monopolizing it to themselves, deceive souls into a belief that they are Churches of Christ, and thus attract them to their systems; this keeps those bodies alive in that state. Indeed so contrary is the conduct of these protestants from the life of Christ, that were it not for these means, they would lose all credit with mankind. Wherein they worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark and the number of his name for every professed Christian Church, that is founded by human creeds, that make provision for the works of fallen nature under a religious cloak,* is an image of the beast: by receiving the mark of the beast is meant, the seal by which souls are bound to support the systems and governments invented by natural man; whether they are civil, military or ecclesiastical; which are particularly the oath which is taken by crossing by Catholics the forehead

* and takes part with the government of the world,

or lifting up the right hand, by Protestants and by signing creeds & articles of faith which make provision for the propensities of a fallen nature. | By the dragon is properly meant, the power of the wicked one. But the dragon giving his power to the beast, particularly alludes to the military power or sword, which supports the pride and tyranny of earthly and ecclesiastical government; and was the means which "Satan, that old dragon," took to extend and establish the kingdom of antichrist. But this was only rendered effectual by the superstition infused through ecclesiastical influence. This continues to be the case to this day. | By the false prophet is meant, the spirit of all false religion, which is adapted to the pride, lusts, & all the carnal passions of fallen man, and which is supported by the civil and military powers: the false prophet in turn, supports their power by his enchanting & miraculous influence over the minds of men, by laying claim to divine origin and revelation, and pretending great religious zeal, when at the same time, it is only a cloak for all the works of fallen nature. This has been the case from the earliest ages. This name is applicable to any false religion, to all religions established by law, and supported by the civil and military powers, whether under the name of Christianity, Pagan, Mahometan, or Jewish religions among men. | The whore of Babylon signifies the antichristian church, and belongs to the false prophet. But this name particularly belongs to the Catholic church, when it was the only established religion in what was called christendom, and was supported and honored by the kings of the earth, and defended by the sword of persecution. | "And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints and martyrs of Jesus." with whom the kings of the earth

have committed fornication. Rev. chap 17. by supporting
hearing, and bearing her, and by being joined to a false Church
instead of the true. But wherever there is an established
Church, combined with the civil and military powers, with
authority to tyranize over the rights and consciences of men,
this constitutes in fact the kingdom of antichrist & the beast.
Here we may see what antichrist is, and what the beast is;
and thus learn what "that wicked man of sin" is, which shall
be revealed, and whom the Lord will consume by the spirit
of his mouth, and shall destroy by the brightness of his
coming 2 Thes 2.8.

Let man apply it to himself, and learn to know the
work of God in this great day of his visitation. When he learns
to subdue his own propensities, and bring into subjection every
faculty and passion "to the obedience of Christ," then, and not
till then will he be a true Christian. Then will he be a
true follower of the Lamb, and be with him in his warfare
against the dragon, the beast, the false prophet, and all
the powers of the world. Then will he be among the
number of those who get "the victory over the beast, and
over his image, and over the number of his name"; and
"stand on the sea of glass" (the clearness and purity of the
gospel) and sing the song of redemption and salvation,
which no man in a natural state can learn.

The rise and work Of the two Witnesses.

It is necessary for man, in order not to lose the day of
his visitation, that he should have a knowledge of the times
and seasons, according to the progressive order of the work of God.
Those who suppose that ever since Christ first appeared there
has always been a true Church on earth, and are seeking by

the Revelation given in that dispensation to find the order and power of the primitive church, will in the event certainly find themselves on false ground: for by referring to the prophecies of Christ and his Apostles, it is evident that there was a time coming when the order and power of the church would be lost, and could not be found by any. Thus saith Jesus: "The day shall come when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, but shall not see it." Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo here is Christ, or there, believe it not Matt 24-23. "Go ye not therefore after them". Luke 21-8.

This evidently alluded to the time of antichrist; for certainly if Christ had a true Church on earth, he must be in that body, <u>for the Church is his body</u>; and, "He is the head of the body". Those who are members of that body can say, "Christ is our life" Col. 3. Therefore they can say in truth, "Lo, here is Christ;" and mankind may safely go after and follow them; for "Whosoever receiveth you, receiveth me." again, "Be ye followers of me even as I am of Christ". Then if there was a day in which none could say in truth, "Lo here is Christ" and that none could be followed upon that supposition, it follows conclusively that <u>Christ had not a true church on earth</u>. And if none could see one of the days of the Son of man, then none could be in Christ: for they who are in him do continually see the day of his power. Again, St. Paul saith, "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed." 2 Thes. 2-3. This plainly shows that the Church would fall away, and antichrist would have his reign before the day of Christs second appearing.

To illustrate this subject it will be proper to introduce

the prophecy of the prophet Daniel. The angel said, the time for the transgression of desolation to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot should be "unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." Dan. 8. 13. 14. This prophecy must be dated from the period when it was given, otherwise we shall have no consistent date; and these days (as is generally allowed) must mean years; for two thousand and three hundred days would bring the prophecy to no important period. Then subtract 553 years, the time before Christ when the prophecy is dated, leaves 1747, the year of the Christian era, when the cleansing of the sanctuary should commence, and when antichrist's real reign must cease.

2nd. To find the year of the Christian era when antichrist's reign should commence, and its duration, observe, "from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days (years) subtract 1290 from 2300. leaves 1010. Then subtract 553 from 1010 leaves 457. This shows the year of the Christian era when antichrist's reign began, to continue 1290 years. This brings it to the year 1747. allowing a few years for mistake in dates, at any rate it must be near the middle of the 18th century for it appears that if the dates vary it brings the period later. But from all history they do not vary more than a few years. The great resemblance of the progressive preparation for the important events foretold by the spirit of prophecy, and the events themselves renders it difficult to fix upon any precise period of time, when those events take place so evidently positively as to convince the natural mind; though doubtless those events have an exact period in the mind of the spirit; and

from the concurrence of circumstances, we may show about the time.

Third; Concerning the commencement of the prophecy of the two witnesses and its duration, the angel said to St John "And I will give power to my two witnesses; and they shall prophesy twelve hundred and three score days clothed in sackcloth" This must be in darkness and mourning. "Can ye make the children of the bride chamber mourn while the Bridegroom is with them? But the days shall come when the Bridegroom shall be taken from them; then shall they fast in those days. Matt 9. 15 &c. Hence the witnesses being represented as under sackcloth, showed that the Bridegroom, or Christ, was not with them.

When the Gentiles under the dominion of anti=christ had trodden under foot the holy city (Christianity) and got full possession of the outer court, then the way into the temple of God was shut. Henceforth, during the reign of antichrist there could be no true church on earth; for if such a church had existed, that would have been the temple of God, and man could have had access to it. When the measure was fulfilled by which the temple and the altar were measured, then antichrist or the "little horn" accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, and would not suffer them to unite in a body according to the order of the primitive church; because such a testimony and order would be a standing wit=ness against his corrupt church. Here began the testimony of the "two witnesses" in those who had light and power enough to flee from this antichristian house or church, and take nothing out of it. Matt 14. 16. 17. This began when the Catholic Church was established with that power, that no other power on earth could control or take away, under pope Leo, about

the year 457. and which increased for many ages. These two witnesses were male and female who were moved by emanation from the spirit of "the two anointed ones". Thus they prophesied, and they had two parts to their testimony: first, of the work of Christs first appearing; that the professors of Christianity in their times were all fallen from it— second, of Christs second coming to destroy the man of sin, to overthrow the kingdom of antichrist, to establish the true church, and set up his everlasting kingdom, which should "never be destroyed".

During the long night of antichristian darkness, God never left himself without a witness; but raised up from time to time faithful witnesses of truth, who by Revelation testified against the corruptions of the self stiled orthodox church, & against all the beastly works of antichrists kingdom, and the only communication which man could have with God, was through these two witnesses: for "they had power to shut heaven that it rain not in the days of their prophecy" Rev 11.6. Those who rejected their testimony and persecuted them, could have no spiritual rain or blessing from heaven. And they had "power to smite the earth with all plagues as oft as they will," by manifesting the truth and power of their testimony. Thus stood as a living witness against all the abominations of those who worshipped the beastly power of antichrist, and thus tormented their consciences, and stood in the way of the peace of antichrists kingdom, and the persecutions of his subjects against those faithful witnesses brought plagues, and the judgments of God upon the earth. See Rev. chapter 11.

These witnesses were the stars of the spiritual heavens for they were the only lights in this night of darkness. These were the stars that the "little horn" cast down to the earth.

"When they had finished their testimony the beast made war upon them and overcame and killed them; and their dead bodies lay in the street of that great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified" Rev 7. 8. And the world rejoiced over them, "because these two prophets tormented them that dwell on the earth." Millions of these faithful witnesses were persecuted, and sealed their testimony with their blood. Yet while they stood faithful to deliver their testimony, against the corruptions of antichrists kingdom, they could not be overcome; nevertheless they were not commissioned to build a church, for the true order and power was lost from the earth, and they could not have light and power to restore it; this could not be effected until Christ made his second appearing to cleanse the sanctuary and build the second gospel Temple.

The true order and power of the church could never have been given only by divine revelation; therefore when that order was lost, it must require a second revelation as great at least as the former to restore it. Hence when these witnesses undertook to build a church, as they could not know the true foundation, they always built more or less upon the principles of the great body who professed to be the church; and thus they so far fell into union with them that they were finally tolerated as christian churches. Hence they have lost almost all their testimony against a carnal nature, and the inventions of man in religion, and thereby in a great measure became one with the world. Here the beast overcame and killed them. Hence the churches which they formed were dead bodies, in union with that great antichristian hierarchy which was governed by the opposite and persecuting spirit that under a high profession of religion "crucified our Lord";

and thus they "lay in the street of that great city (mystical Babylon) wherein is the iniquity of Sodom and darkness of Egypt, under the spurious cloak of the christian name. In this manner many of those "stars fell from heaven to the earth" one after another, & thus formed dead bodies through the whole reign of antichrist Rev 6-13 and 11-8. It is inconsistent to suppose that these stars were the stars of the natural firmament that fell; for it is ascertained that almost all of them are larger than this earth.

The power of antichrist continued to maintain its ground, and the scarlet whore sat upon the beast upon many waters, and was supported by the kings of the earth. Rev. 17. and said, "I sit a queen, am no widow, and shall see no sorrow." The Catholic Church felt secure, yet she was treasuring up in her bowels those principles of envy, wrath and strife which was preparing to break forth in contention & finally destroy her.

The first blow that weakened the power of antichrist and by dividing his kingdom began to destroy established Religion, was the memorable division called the Reformation. Though this did not alter the nature of antichrists subjects, nor restore the power of salvation, yet it paved the way for many other divisions, and began to open the way for free investigation; & for the mind of man to be unfettered from superstition and tradition. This will finally produce the total overthrow of antichrists kingdom. The judgments of God, & plagues which were to be brought upon mankind for their persecuting the witnesses of truth, and for all their abominations of worshipping the beast and his image, are represented under the figure of the seven vials full of the wrath of God, poured out upon the earth; alluding to the judgments and plagues which were the consequences of the fruits which had grown from the seeds of

wickedness, in the seven ages of the world. "And no man was able to enter into the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled." It is not to be supposed that the events produced either by the seven seals, seven trumpets or seven vials were to be begun, and fully accomplished, the first before the next began; but only that the events began one after another in the order in which they are mentioned; but they are all in some measure connected together. Hence the way into the temple was opened and made accessible to man before the work of the seven vials was fully accomplished. But it could not be until, by the plagues and dissentions brought upon the world by them that the power of antichrist was so far weakened that his dominion over the consciences of men, was in a great measure taken away.

This was produced in the first place, by the continual testimony of the witnesses of truth, and second, by philosophers and men of liberal minds; many of whom appeared in the 17th century, and have increased to the present day. These were the ten horns of the beast which had received no kingdom, yet have received power as kings, one hour with the beast.† These were to hate the whore, that is, all ecclesiastical establishments, and make her naked, and burn her with fire. These contended for the rights of man, and liberty of conscience against arbitrary power and all tyranny, both civil and ecclesiastical; and through their influence many exertions were made to establish liberty of conscience. But these efforts were always opposed by the great body of ecclesiastics. Yet notwithstanding this great light was thrown on these subjects, and liberal sentiments gained much ground towards the close of that century. The testimony & sufferings

† Rev 17, 12 &c.

of the witnesses of truth were shown to great advantage by these liberal minded men: and as the Catholic church had lost much of its power, William, prince of Orange, having succeeded James 2nd as king of England, proclaimed liberty of conscience in the year 1689; and succeeded in a great measure in establishing it. This subject excited great attention in Europe and opened the way for the progressive increase of the rights and liberties of man.

The progressive effects of rational and religious liberty. The spirit of antichrist maintained its ascendant & the great whore sat on the beast, and ruled people, nations, kindred and tongues, and had the leading power in the world, and bound the souls and bodies of men throughout all (what is called) Christendom, until those discordant principles which had been long accumulating in her own bowels exploded and began to weaken and break and rend her in pieces. The three main springs from whence arose those divisions that broke her power were 1st the spirit of infidelity or naturalism, set in motion by the scandalous and corrupt conduct of the self styled vicegerent of God; this high court of heaven and only true church, practised such tyranny and abominations that shocked every principle of reason and social virtue. 2nd from the feuds & animosities of the different monastic orders in the Catholic universal church, who Diotrephes-like, loved to have the preeminence - and 3rd from the impatience of the secular powers to bear the control and exactions of this extravagant whore, upon the lives and property of their subjects; to support her pomp, splendor and power. But while this Catholic Hierarchy kept compact together and did not break among themselves, liberal minded men, and discontented earthly princes; struggled against

her power in vain. Yet when the ecclesiastics and monastic orders came to an open rupture among themselves and a part revolted from the papal supremacy, this opend a door for natural men and secular princes, to step in with the revolting party & assert the natural and civil rights of man. And by the divisions in this Catholic Hierarchy its power was so weakened, that the secular power and liberal principles have gained the ascendant more and more to this day. / Notwithstanding the ecclesiastical party have never had but a small share in voluntarily establishing the rights and reasonable liberties of mankind. For although they contended one against the other with the fiercest animosity and exposed each others deformity and corruptions, yet it was to gain the ascendancy themselves; and whenever one party or the other could gain it by the aid of the civil power; they showed themselves to be the genuine daughters of the scarlet colored whore, by persecuting all who differed from them, & crushing them by all the means in their power, as the most authentic ecclesiastical histories prove. / But these contentions balanced the ecclesiastical power, so that natural and liberal minded men gained the ascendancy, and were enabled to disarm the ecclesiastical of the persecuting sword; and increasingly establish the rights of man. Yet such was always the opposition of the ecclesiastics to these rights, and so great was its influence, that the secular Government could not in any country disengage itself from its connexion for ages. But it would in some form weave itself into the Government, and [redacted] get a national establishment, and this continues to be its operation as far as in its power in all countries, except in this land. / Many and great struggles took place in Europe for 150 years after the first rise of the Reformation, to gain the civil

and Religious Rights of man; but they were greatly paralised by the efforts of the ecclesiastics or priestcraft, still however they gained ground. About the year 1687, King James 2nd of England proclaimed liberty of Conscience; this act doubtless arose in part from sinister motives, he thought that by this means (as he was a Catholic) the Catholic Religion would show its superiority and easily gain the ascendancy and save the appearance of force to maintain it. But this act (proceeding from whatever motives) was opposed by the priesthood, and such was still their influence over the minds of the people; that this act so just and reasonable in itself, and truly for the benefit of all Rational beings, was so unpopular that it cost him his crown, and which his de= scendants never regained. (Nevertheless the Revolution that followed, in order to save the state from total anarchy; threw such a weight of power in the hands of the secular Government that William, as has been before stated was enabled to estab= lish though in somewhat of a limited degree, the same liberty that cost his predecessor his crown (see Hume & Goldsmith's histories of England.) (Here was the first basis ever estab= lished for liberty of Conscience and the Rights of man to rest upon. Here the first foundation was laid to support those principles which have ever since been gradually undermi= ning civil and ecclesiastical tyranny and arbitrary power. Those principles of equal rights, and a belief that all men have a right to security of life, liberty and property, and to believe in matters of Religion, and worship God according to the dictates of their own Consciences; have gradually extended through Europe; and produced various Revolutions and commotions, but all terminating in a greater or less degree in either gaining some ground for rational liberty, or in

dividing and thus weakening the power of antichrist & the beast, so as to open the way for a further extension of those liberal principles. And at length those principles were a great cause of the Revolution in these United States, and guided the patriots of that day in establishing those valuable liberal and ever memorable Institutions and Constitution of Governing principles, for the security and protection of just and equal Rights and Rational Liberty in things both natural and spiritual. Thus in this favored land Rational liberty and independence from the power and tyranny of the beast, laid a solid foundation, and built a temple, from whence those principles have been diffused and undoubtedly will be sooner or later extended to all nations notwithstanding the principles of tyranny and slavery do more or less defile this temple of liberty itself, & often gains a partial ascendant yet it never will gain the possession nor cast it to the ground, for God has promised that this monstrous beast shall be destroyed, and that the rest of the beasts shall lose their dominion". Of course the tyranny of the beastly nature can never supplant those just & liberal principles now rapidly gaining ground in the World; Coeval with the* temple of liberty and independence, the foundation was laid in this land of liberty, for the still more glorious and important liberty and independence of the Rational soul from the bondage of sin, and from the spiritual tyranny & fetters and ties of antichrist, and all the principles of the fallen beastly nature. And the glorious spiritual Temple or true Church of Christ has been founded, and so far completed that the principles of genuine liberty to the Rational soul, go forth from it, and are extending and will extend, as fast as the way is providentially prepared, by the extension of the principles

* establishment of natural rights, and learning &c.

of natural liberty and the rights of conscience, until all souls have a fair offer to be "Made free indeed" by the son of God. John 8 = 33 to 36. Thus in the operations of providence and grace, we may see the prophecy of Daniel in the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzars dream fulfilling. "Thou sawest till a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and it smote the image upon its feet, which were of iron and clay, and brake them in pieces — then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, & the gold broken in pieces, and became as the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that no place was found for them, and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth" Dan. 2 Chap. The image was smitten on its feet and toes, which externally signifies the Roman Empire, (which was formerly the Catholic world) in its divided state, "partly strong and partly weak." But America never formed any part of this empire organized by the hands or contrivance of man, by establishing the balance of powers, but it was providentially planted, and grew up to independence by providential events, one side of all the laying out and calculations of the wisest of men. Thus even externally it was cut out of the mountain of providential power, without the hands of man, that is, by an agency of providence, beyond the power and direction or calculation of man. But this same figure or image internally signifies, human nature with its passions under the guidance of antichrist, which is the antitype of the head of gold. Those being broken from the iron fetters of antichrist, and become more like clay, that is, human nature, more in its simple state, are smitten by the gospel which is the spirit of the stone, which is cut out of the mountain of holiness and righteousness; they

are thus smitten by the testimony that goes forth from Zion, and broken in pieces.

By the wind carrying the image away signifies, that the very life of man, when the superstition and tyranny of the combined civil and ecclesiastical power over the mind is broken, so that they can see its enormity, will contribute to destroy, overthrow and carry it away till no place shall be found for it among men — for the wind is but a current of air, the breath of life, and as a current of air will rush forward and carry all before it in proportion to its strength, so will the current of revolutions that move on the life of man carry all these things away. And above all, the life of the soul when set in motion by the power of the gospel will carry away all the bands, ties and superstition of a carnal nature, and all the iron power of false religion. This is the stone cut out of the mountain of God without hands, for it is utterly distinct of all the layings out and plans of all human beings. Therefore we see that this stone or kingdom of Righteousness and justice, is progressively growing, both providentially and spiritually, and will yet become a great mountain of light, knowledge and eternal Righteousness, and fill the whole earth, and reach the heavens, so that it will be a mountain of eternal strength to souls to rest upon and gain the heavenly order. This is the mountain that was promised to be established in the x

earth+ and exalted above all other hills and all nations should flow unto it. See Isa— 2. 2.

It should be remembered that although the little stone smote the image on its feet and toes to break it in pieces; which was as before stated the divided states of Christendom (so called) yet the image contained the gold, the silver, brass and iron, which included all the former great monarchies of the earth; hence it comprehended all

the powers, nations and principles of the world. In the outward order of the world, this image was explained as representing the four principle monarchies of the world with their branches to the consummation whereof the Babylonian into which the Assyrian and Egyptian were then merged stood as head; therefore it was the first universal monarchy, and hence the real head. Hence Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar, "Thou art that head of gold." In him was the highest arbitrary and despotic power ever centered in one man on earth "for whom he would he slew, and whom he would he kept alive" And whom he would he set up, and whom he would he put down "without control, this is the highest pinacle of arbitrary power, never possessed by any other without more or less control. And Babylon the seat of his power, was brought by him to such a pitch of grandeur, splendor and riches, as to be called "The glory of kingdoms" and according to all accounts was never equalled in these respects; nor was it ever equalled in the obscenity and lewdness of her daughters, nor in licentious revelry and all sorts of open abominations. But all this was but a type of antichrists kingdom and spiritual head. Therefore it is that the great antichristian hierarchy, or great spiritual city "That reigned over the kings of the earth" was called "Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of harlots and abominations of the earth." But further, the image had a more internal meaning for being in the form of man, showed that it was composed of the elements and principles of human nature. Hence it is all to be found in the nature of man as its antitype, this is far the most important to be understood for it has a practical effect in all men

Its head is national religion which is the head of all

his powers, therefore represented as a head of gold. His breast is the genius and moral powers of human nature, which give support and is like common currency to all the rest, hence represented as silver – His belly of brass shows the adulterated bold and audacious seat and source of all his ambition and pleasures; hence represented as brazen. His legs and feet of iron shows the consolidation of powers and ambition that like the legs and feet carries all the rest of the system. His arms and hands of silver, show the operating powers of his physical & moral genius whereby all his works are effected. The arms represent the powers and knowledge of man operating intellectually, and through which only any spiritual work can be performed – His legs and feet, the same principles temporally exercised – His ten fingers and ten toes, denote the ten passions or operators acting in the same two fold capacity. In the outward order of the image when the Roman & then Catholic empire was divided into eastern and western empires, the seat of the former being at Constantinople, and the latter at Rome, and also the Catholic Hierarchy being divided in the same manner, this formed the legs and feet of the image, for the power of the whole world prosperly rested upon them. And although the eastern leg was finally taken possession of by the Mahometan power, yet as the Greek Church has its seat in it, it still to this day maintains a fundamental power over the whole eastern empire, and is one of the legs of the world. We may observe that these two great divisions are now the primary basis of all the powers of the world in many respects, and will doubtless according to all appearance be fully so before the consumation. The toes were not completed until the division of the empire into ten powers as before

stated. This had the same divisional effect in most respects in both parts of the empire eastern and western, such as the mixture of peoples, nations and languages, conquests, &c. although the division of seperate and national powers was more evident and abiding in the western empire. But since the Turks took Constantinople and swallowed up the eastern empire they have been reckoned a European power, and their power is thus in fact based upon the feet and toes of the image, for the divided powers of Christendom have taken as much pains to support them in order to maintain the balance of powers, as they have any of the nations called Christian. Therefore the Mahometan power has become "part of the great image", and is recentrated in the beast that sways the sceptre over "All the world." And hence the legs and feet of the image may now properly be termed the Christian and Mahometan powers — which are really the basis of all others, for though the name is changed, yet the principles and power is the same; & therefore the breaking the feet to pieces will overthrow all the Beastly and tyranic systems of men, founded in the image of corrupt nature, and supported by the dragon and false prophet.

In the destruction of this mineral image, we find three principles as operating agents, 1st The clay. This is the Democratical principle, or the feelings, wants and needs of the people; Man was originally formed of clay, and as clay is easily moulded into any shape, so are the people. But this principle always abhors tyranical power especially over the Conscience; it has always stood in the way of arbitrary Governments, whether natural or ecclesiastical, which are always supported by the dragon or power of the sword. These democratical or Republican principle, mingling with the Government

of the world, have been the only medium through which any check has ever been imposed on the complete consolidation of arbitrary & tyrannical power in the world, which is represented by the iron. Thus it is said, they (the iron) shall mingle themselves with the children of men, but they shall not cleave one to the other, even as iron is not mixed with clay Dan 2 - 40 to 43. The divided state of the Roman Empire after the Barbarian conquests ultimately opened the way for the operation of the clay, and the system of the balance of powers so long attended to in Christendom and which the Mahometan powers have finally been drawn into, has prevented any universal consolidation of arbitrary dominion. And further facilitated the operation of the clay - and the divisions in the kingdom of antichrist, completed the avenues for the clay to work more and more into the great image and weaken its power and prepare the way to break it in pieces. 2nd "The stone cut out of the mountain without hands, that should smite the image on its toes and break it in pieces". This can never operate where there is a consolidation of civil and ecclesiastical powers supported by the sword; therefore the operation of the clay prepares the way, and as fast as it effectually divides the iron, so far the stone will break it in pieces. But the work of the stone is two fold, 1st preparatory in the witnesses, who prophecy and bear testimony by the immediate movement of the spirit. These testify against the corrupt and debased state of the world, and the fallen state of all their institutions of Government, and systems of Religion, and in favor of the rights of man. Their testimony is powerful, but short lived in individuals only, and can never build a system nor found a body of people, without falling to the world and becoming another "dead body in the street of the

great city, spiritually called Sodom and Egypt. But they must always be the harbingers of the spreading of the gospel, or extension of the kingdom of Christ wherever it comes, and their testimony will never cease until God has finished his work with man, nay, even where the kingdom of Christ has been established, they will be witnesses against the church or any of its members where such get on the forbidden ground of the world.

And in all cases where these witnesses have done their preparatory work the gospel will follow, until it has the ascendancy throughout the world. The testimony of these witnesses, is one of the greatest and swiftest destroyer of the beast and the image that will ever operate, but the work cannot be completed without the everlasting gospel, the spiritual part of the stone, or kingdom of Christ, which will then take root & grow & build that which can never be destroyed, this, no other principle could ever do on earth. 3rd "The wind shall carry them away, that no place shall be found for them". Thus it appears that the wind is the final agent of its destruction — This as before stated, means the element of the life and genius of man for the liberal principles of the day must work in this life, so also must the spirit of the witnesses work in the same, it causes a movement like a current of air or wind; and the final principles of the everlasting gospel can work no where else. Therefore by the combined operations of the clay, the witnesses, and the gospel, the minds of all mankind, will ultimately become so enlightened and raised to understand the true rights & dignity of man, and that rational liberty that is according to the order of God's creation; that all the principles of the Beast and the image, which tyranize over the conscience, enchain the mind and fetter the genius of man, will lose all their power, and have no

government over the rational mind of man. Thus the movements and operations in the elements of the life of man will carry them all away, so that no place can be found for them. Then will that system of combined tyranny and arbitrary Government of the civil, ecclesiastical and military powers come to an end; Then will the "saints of the Most high" have the dominion, & the Millenium will be ushered in, in its full glory.

We may here observe the exact fulfillment of the prediction. That the image should first be smitten on its toes, which were part of iron and part of clay. Great Britain being the last conquest of the Romans in the west, and the last independent power formed after the empire was divided, which completed its number; constituted the last toe of the image; & here was first permanently planted those principles of liberty, which began to break the image. This was effected by the operations of the clay, and the spirit of the witnesses. Through the same principles from hence went forth those migrations to America which laid the foundation of the United states, where those principles found a resting place, and by the Revolution struck a fatal stroke to the toes of the image†. For this nation being formed by emigrations from all the ten toes, thro' this means the breaking power will return into all the toes and feet, and in the ultimate through the work of providence & grace effect the final overthrow of the image; for it is plain that those principles are continually gaining ground. In this last toe also began the seeds of the everlasting gospel, which from thence followed the clay to this land, and began the everlasting establishment of the stone cut out of the mountain without hands, which here has become a growing power that will follow its forerunners into all nations, and fill the whole earth.

† as was typified by power & oppression of the conscience, that caused the first emigrations to this Land.

Further, to illustrate the foregoing subjects, it may be proper to give a more full explanation in some respects of the outward order and operative principles of the Beast, seen in the Revelations, as described in his two fold character; 1st As the Roman and Catholic empire, and 2nd As representing all the great Monarchies of the world and their principles to the consummation. As representing the Roman empire it was said, that one of its heads was wounded by the sword, as it were to death; The Roman empire had then swallowed up all the rest of the previous monarchies, but afterwards the Roman power as the head received a mortal wound, by the sword of the Barbarians — so also did the power of the Roman Religion, by the preaching of the gospel, the sword of truth. But by uniting with the military power or sword of the Roman emperors, the power of the Church in this head was also wounded to death. But this deadly wound in its threefold sense, in Pagan, Christian Religions, and earthly power, was given this was healed "in the sight of men," by the establishment of the papal or Catholic power as the supreme head above all of the whole empire, tho' in a divided state as to its outward organization. It was in this state more "wondered after," and its influence has been much more extensive than ever it was under the Emperors, supported by the military power or dragon.

Some have supposed that the seven hills on which Rome was built was alluded to by the seven heads; no doubt this was though unknown to the builders of the city; a representation that the power of all the seven primary monarchies of the world were centered in it. But the angel in his explanation of the Beast that carried the whore, his second character — says "The Beast that thou sawest was and is not, and shall

ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition; and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder (whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world) # all but such as were thus written have been overcome by the beast. From the foundation of the world every soul that obeyed their spiritual light given by the visitation of God and continued so to do, have in all ages been written in the book of life; all others were natural under a beastly nature, led by that fallen spirit that came from the bottomless pit, for who can find any bottom to the darkness and loss of fallen man?, and those fallen principles under a false religion, lead to a rejection of the gospel of salvation, and thus to final perdition. And the expressions, "The beast that was, and is not, & yet is," are very mystical. But this means the beast <u>was</u> in a systematic order as Representing the powers and principles of the world- But <u>is</u> not as a litteral beast, nor does he exist with all his powers now in the same order. But yet he <u>is</u> in power & existence with all the principles of human nature & the world and governs it. "And here is the mind that hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sitteth." This was litterally Rome on her seven hills or mountains, where the seat of antichrists power was centered, and all the powers of the former monarchies were concentrated. And there are seven kings (it should be kingdoms) five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; & when he cometh he must continue a short space. And the beast even he is the eighth, and is of the seven & goeth into perdition. This was the papal hierarchy when it became a temporal sovereignty, and through its spiritual power was supported by all the rest with greater power than any of them.

Rev 17-8.

But those dark and corrupting principles that sprang from this sink of corruption, and which have darkened the whole earth, truly belong to and will go to perdition. / The five kingdoms or heads that were fallen; were the Assyrian, the first great monarchy reckoned as head of the world. 2nd the Egyptian, also a great head of the world, from whence the sciences, laws and principles of Government, which have governed the world in a great measure proceeded. 3rd the Babylonian. The seat of pride and tyranny. 4th Medopersian which became the nursery of voluptuousness and vain glory, 5th Grecian. The seat of polite learning, military science and political intrigue. These as heads were all fallen, and were merged in the 6th the Roman head, that then was. The 7th was the empire of Charlemange, or Charles the great, in the eighth century, who after having saved the western empire from the Saracens and Barbarians, attempted to establish the ancient or western Roman empire under one emperor, to partake both of the ancient military state, and of the ecclesiastical power in one, under the name of "The holy Roman empire". This for a time he effected: and it was established avowedly in the place of the ancient Roman empire, He gave the first real temporal dominion to the pope as a sovereign, which completed the figure of the beast. / But as predicted his empire continued but a short space, for at his death it fell to its former divided state, though in certain titles and usages it still retains its principles, but little more than a shadow remains. Divine Revelation had declared that it should continue (but) a short space, therefore in vain have many attempts been made to support and restore it. It was attempted by Charles the fifth of France & Germany.

by Louis the 14th of France. And lastly by Napoleon Bonaparte But all in vain. Nay it never can be, the liberal principles of the day, the spirit of the witnesses, and the power of the wind, will for ever prevent it, and give room for the little stone to work, until the great antichristian beast in which is centered the powers and principles of all these kingdoms is utterly destroyed and his body given to the burning flame. And the balance of powers so long attended to in Europe, as before stated is nothing more nor less than keeping up this divided state; & has prevented the effect of all such attempts.

In this character of the Beast as carrying the whore on many waters which "are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues" The ten horns are said to be ten kings which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind and shall give their power and strength to the beast. These shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire". These are the Republican principles that are more and more manifested in all the ten toes, and which will finally extend through all nations and are the same in substance as the clay, where the Rulers proceed from the people as it were for an hour with power as kings, and then revert to the people again. These while they take part with the Government of the world, give their power and strength to the beast. But they hate all established Religions, and all tyranny over the conscience, & by their writings and exertions in the cause of Rational liberty expose her nakedness and deformity, and will finally cause all national Religions and priestcraft to be overthrown and as it were burnt with fire. Though they are subjects

* but ultimately will be overcome by the power of the wind

of the beast of nature, and live upon the same carnal pleasures or flesh, as do the subjects of the whore — yet they are God's instruments to "do his will" in the providential order, to destroy this mystery Babylon, and pave the way for the growth of his everlasting kingdom. see Rev. Chap. 14th —

An explanation

of the seven ages: seven seals; Trumpets & Vials.

First of the ages.

All Chronologers have generally agreed in assigning seven ages to the world, at least those who are professed believers in the scriptures; but they have nearly all assigned the seventh age to the first appearing of Christ. This is the more strange since nearly all professors of Christianity, believe that there will be "a latter day of glory"; and a reign of the saints in some manner more glorious than any work ever before on earth; and that it will be the most extraordinary work & effect the greatest revolution in the world, of any thing that has ever taken place; yet for this extraordinary work, they have left no age. For from their being but seven seals, Trumpets and Vials; it is evident that there can be but seven ages to the end. since these must all be derived from the ages. But to make out their seven ages, they have divided the patriarchial age after the flood, and dated the third age at the call of Abraham, when it must be plain to the reasonable mind, that this was but a continuation of the patriarchial age, when the foundation of the nation of Israel was laid in Abraham, like as was the foundation of all other nations by some of the patriarchs. But the call of Abraham produced no general event in the

world, to make it the era for an age, until the time of Moses; so that this cannot without manifest impropriety be called an age

The first age commenced at the creation of Adam and extended to the flood; we can find no data to fix another age until the flood. During this first age, the power and wisdom of God was remarkably manifested in the creation of intelligent beings. In the order, beauty and harmony of his works, and his goodness and mercy was also wonderfully displayed in his dealings and promises to man, both before and after his fall. But it is evident that through his disobedience the harmony of the world was deranged, so that its beauty and goodness did not appear according to its primitive order yet God raised up witnesses of his goodness, and by these means, and by his justice in his dealings with mankind sowed the seeds of a testimony of himself, to spring up & bring forth fruit to the end of time. This was beautifully shown in the case of Abel whose offerings was accepted for his righteousness, "And who being dead yet speaketh". In Enoch, who for his obedience was translated, and did not see death. In Noah, who for his righteousness was saved with his family from the flood that destroyed the world of the ungodly – and became the patriarch of the new world, and a figure of the salvation in Christ. These things show the superintendence of the Divine spirit, as well as his power, wisdom, goodness and justice. And that under this superintendence not only the reward of the righteous is finally sure, but that the just reward of the wicked is equally sure however long either may be delayed. These things are written and preserved by the best attested traditions of all nations, and are preserved more or less among all nations ever yet known,

as an everlasting memorial of the existence, power and justice of "the Great God". Thus like the figure of the spring, or proper beginning of the year, was sowed in this age the seeds both good and bad of all the fruits of every succeeding age to the end.

The second age began after the flood, by a new planting of the race of man, and of the principles of human nature in the earth. In this age the foundation of all the nations of the world were laid, and also all the principles of Governments, and all the institutions arts and sciences, were evidently planted in this age, as the spring of the new world. For the old world was in miniature a figure of all that shall ever take place on earth to the end. And hence the world was again replanted with the seeds preserved from the old world. In this second age the Divine superintendence of God was wonderfully shown in his providential direction of the establishment of nations, in their preservation and progressive improvement; and in fixing the bounds and state of their habitations, so as to subserve his future purposes.* This is strikingly illustrated in Noah's predictions to his three sons. In its final results upon the descendants of Ham, who appears from all history to be the most prophane of the three. In the preservation of the patriarchal line from Shem the most pious; whose posterity as predicted first Reduced the Canaanites, Ham's decendants to servitude And in its final results upon the descendants of Japhet, who have finally possessed and "dwelt in all the tents" of both Ham and Shem. From Japhet sprang all the Gentile nations that now command the world; thus the posterity of Japhet have possessed all the tents of Ham and Shem.

But his gracious providence was most specially manifested in his calling of Abraham as the depository of the knowledge

* Gen. 9. 27. "God shall enlarge Japhet and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem" &c. Gen. 10. 5. 20. 31. 11. 8. 17. 26.

of the true God, and in raising up from his loins a chosen nation, in whom in the outward order he might manifest his dealings and laws in a peculiar manner, so as to preserve the knowledge of his name and worship, through them finally throughout the earth. In raising up Melchizedeck as the first priest of the Most High God, and a perfect figure of the eternal priesthood of Christ, and establishing his kingdom upon the principles of righteousness and justice, as a figure of the everlasting kingdom of God. And in preserving the patriarchal line, through whom the promised seed should come "In which all the families of the earth should be blessed". This age continued until the bondage of Israel in Egypt. And the immediate productions of the seeds sown in this age, produced in connective order the third age. In those ages God dealt with man in the order of his providence as in infancy and childhood, as proved by the records of those times. By providentially directing & supporting them as the Father of nature.

The third age commenced by the deliverance of Israel from Egypt, and extended to the building of Solomons temple. This was peculiarly the age of types and shadows & figurative representations of all that had been in the world, and of all that ever should be. And also of the nature and elements of the Divine being, of all the elements and principles of the world, and of the spiritual world. Of the angels & ministring spirits of God, and of the final establishment of the kingdom of God. This was as a School master to teach man in the world which was then in its youth. All these things were set forth in the figures, ceremonies and commandments of the law— And in God's delivering his chosen people from the bondage of Egypt by his mighty power, and in his guiding them through the wilderness, and casting out the inhabitants of

* This is drawn by the Lord himself— "I am again

Canaan, and settling this chosen people in their stead, was a figure of the travel of souls in the wilderness of nature, & finally of gaining an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ, the heavenly Canaan. In doing these things God in a most marvellous manner "showed his power and might that his name might be declared throughout all the earth." And it was by these means that the name of the "Great God" has been handed down to all generations. For in the judgments upon the Egyptians, who were then reputed the wisest & most powerful nation. The God of Israel showed that the Gods of this great and wise people were unable to protect their people from his power; "But upon the Gods of Egypt did the Lord also execute judgments." Therefore the invisible, or "unknown God" was revered throughout all nations as above all Gods, or as the God of Gods. As it is written 1 Sam. Chap 4- 7th. Where the Philistines said, woe unto us, who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? ~~These~~ That [illegible] the Gods that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues (~~that is~~, & did the wonders) in the wilderness.* But it is needless to multiply proofs, for whoever examines the scriptures, particularly St. Pauls explanation of the law in his epistle to the Hebrews, and the works of Josephus, will find ample proofs of what has been asserted on this head. In all these things we see that God manifested himself in figures and signs like as letters instruct the youthful mind; as being incapable of instruction by intellectual intuition. And further in the spreading of the nations over the earth, and in the rising of kingdoms and peoples, and the providential operations of these events. The invisible God showed his superintendance over all the creation. This appeared to be a peculiar age of providence, for after Moses

* This is declared by the Lord himself- "I am against [illegible] saith the Lord of hosts, & my name is magnified among the brethren. Mal. 1.4.

had written the former works of God, and had revealed the typical laws and the principles by which God was to be known, there appear to be few prophets or messengers of God to reveal his will to man. Hence it was perhaps the most extraordinary age for man to prove his own invention and show what was in man in the state of nature of any that ever was. Yet God left not himself without witness, in a most evident manner; for while the laws & principles which he had revealed were attended to, and obeyed by any, they were prospered, and those who took their own inventions contrary to those laws, judgments followed them. This was the case in this age in a more visible manner than has ever been known in any other age. This was peculiarly necessary because of the gross and savage state of mankind. As nations and peoples had not then got established in such a state as to improve the intellectual mind, for as it was the youth of the world, hence little effect could be produced only by addressing the external senses.

We may evidently see that this age began to introduce man into a state of manhood. This therefore ushered in the fourth age. This began at the completion of Solomons Temple, and continued until the captivity of the Jews. Hence commenced a new era in the world; this was the middle age and was the first period of the manhood of the world. In this age the highest and most active display of the energy, riches and glory of human nature in man in the fallen world was exhibited. As may be seen in the greatness, strength, riches and splendor of the great cities of Babylon, Nineveh and Thebes, which have never been equalled on earth. And in commercial riches and

strength, probably the city of Tyre has never been equalled. And the wisdom and riches and natural glory of Solomon stands confessedly by all as the superior of all men. While the elements of all the great monarchies of the world, were either founded or brought to maturity in this age. Vain glory, gaudy splendor, and strength of tyranical power, were brought to their highest pitch in the Egyptian & Babylonian monarchies as well as voluptuousness and idolatry, so that Babylon & Egypt have been proverbial to this day as the head and highest source in these respects. Also the elements of arts, sciences, learning, music, poetry, and the principles of human laws began to be brought into regular systems. And the principles of the rights of man and the first dawn of popular governments based upon the voice of the people, appear to have been first brought into view during this age. witness the popular governments

* For all the earth was brought to bow to, and acknowledge him; not by force of arms, but by his wisdom, and the glory of his kingdom — a complete figure of the effect of the wisdom of the final doctrines of Christ, and the glory of his kingdom.

exhibited on earth. * Therefore as man had now come more to maturity, and the intelectual faculties of man being more cultivated, God addressed the rational intelligence of man more than he had ever done in any preceding age. This was done by the ministry of prophets, those divine messengers of God; who showed his mind and will and foretold his work and the events of the world to the end of time. This age under

strength, probably the city of Tyre has never been equalled. And the wisdom and riches and natural glory of Solomon stands confessedly by all as the superior of all men. While the elements of all the great monarchies of the world, were either founded or brought to maturity in this age. Vain glory, gaudy splendor, and strength of tyranical power, were brought to their highest pitch in the Egyptian & Babylonian monarchies as well as superstitiousness and idolatry, so that Babylon & Egypt have been proverbial to this day as the head and highest source in those respects. Also the elements of arts, sciences, learning, music, poetry, and the principles of human laws began to be brought into regular systems. And the principles of the rights of man and the first dawn of popular governments based upon the voice of the people, appear to have been first brought into view during this age, witness the popular governments of Greece and Rome. These things show the vigor of manhood in human nature. Therefore it required a corresponding activity of the manifestations of the spirit of God. Accordingly the Temple of Solomon and the order of Israel and system of worship under it, completed the figurative representations of the law. This together with the extent, peace and glory of his kingdom, was the most perfect type of the final and everlasting kingdom of Christ and Reign of the saints ever exhibited on earth. * Therefore as man had now come more to maturity, and the intellectual faculties of man being more cultivated, God addressed the rational intelligence of man more than he had ever done in any preceding age. This was done by the ministry of prophets, those divine messengers of God; who showed his mind and will and foretold his work and the events of the world to the end of time. This age under

the first Temple was emphatically the age of prophets; These were undoubtedly the types of those blessed messengers and ministring spirits in the everlasting kingdom of Christ when completed in its glory; through whom the work of God will be carried on, and the mind and will of God always be made known to souls. But when this age had run its course, and shown that the vigor of human nature by its corruption throughout the world, and the apostasy of God's chosen people also showed that there needed a further and more radical work than was then revealed, in order to usher in that kingdom of which this work was but a figure. Then it ended and the chosen people were over come and carried captive by that power which was the seat and head of the glory and idolatry of the world.

The work of this age contains a most important lesson for us "on whom the ends of the world have come". As here the most active genius and wisdom of man was brot forward — and the most extraordinary prophetic messengers were sent from God, so that their predictions by their evident fulfillment have been a standing memorial to all rational minds of his infinite knowledge and wisdom. Yet corruption increased with all these priviledges so that his chosen people were led captive, and the world fell under the strongest and most corrupt tyranny. So we may learn that all the natural wisdom & genius of man, and all the divine visitations and messages of the spirit of God, can never save man from the corruptions of a fallen nature nor establish the abiding kingdom of God in his soul so long as he lives in the works of nature, and follows the course of the world. But he will finally fall a complete captive to the lusts, riches and vain glory of the world. It also shows that until "the law goes forth from Zion, and the word of the Lord

* under Zerubabel, who was born to prepare in the close of Babylonish of the preceding &c.

from Jerusalem" All the wisdom, learning, and genius of man in founding his institutions will degenerate into tyranical power and vain glory, and corrupt every manifestation of God into a Religion suited to his carnal and ambitious desires.

The fifth age began at the return of the Jews from the Babylonian captivity, and the building of the second temple‡. As the first temple had set forth in the figure the complete order of the everlasting kingdom of Christ and its glory, it was not necessary that the second temple should be so magnificent a structure as the first. But in its square form, and in its plans of structure, and in the prophets under it, directing their prophecies more particularly to the work of his second appearing It was the most complete figure of the second appearing of the same divine spirit & its corresponding work manifested ever embodied on earth. And as the long expected Messiah at length honored it with his presence "its glory was greater than the former." In this age also, the strength of the maturity of human nature was manifested; In that empire in which was concentrated the greatest strength, ambition and power that ever was seen on earth. In the Roman empire which bare rule over the world longer, and in the result with more tyranical power, than all the other great monarchies put together, and which in its branches and principles, will extend to the end of the world. Therefore in the end God manifested himself in a manner proportioned to the mature manhood and state of the world: for the divine messenger which had been the theme of prophecy, and the hope and desire of all nations" was ushered into the world and came to this second temple.

It is evident that until the nature of mankind had come to maturity or manhood, and had been prepared by the growth and tuition of all the preceeding ages. They could not have received

‡ under Zerubabel, who was born & prepared in the close & Babylon of the preceeding &c.

this Revelation, nor could the promised seed have been brought forth. Jesus Christ was the first perfect production of nature & spirit, in him as respects the creation of God, the powers and virtues of nature and spirit met, and formed a perfect being, which could not be until creation came to maturity. But as when he appeared and laid the foundation of his kingdom, in its elements never to be lost. The figurative temple & the figurative chosen people were overthrown; and also all the Religious establishments of the world in the result lost their charms and fell. So we are to learn, that when he shall make his final appearance to establish his everlasting kingdom, according to the elements revealed in that day – All the powers and institutions of man, and all other Religious establishments and all false and tyrannical principles, will lose their charms and fall as fast as his kingdom extends.

The sixth age began at the advent of the Messiah, but not at his birth and personal appearance, any more than the birth of Moses his great type in the deliverance of his people, properly began the third age. But as it was then, the agent was prepared in the preceding age, to usher in the next, which commenced by the calling of Israel to be God's covenant people, and in delivering them from bondage. So Jesus Christ the agent of deliverance for the spiritual Israel, appeared and was qualified for this work in the preceding age. So that the sixth age began properly by the calling of a chosen body as the depositary of the elements and laws of Christ, and in their deliverance from the bondage of spiritual Egypt. This was by far the most important age of the world that had taken place; for the world had come more to maturity, and nature began

to bring forth the fruits of the seeds sown in former ages, hence the Lamb of God "having spoiled principalities and powers" & shown himself superior to all, and "All power in heaven and earth (respecting the mysteries of the work of God) having been given to him & He prevailed to open the sealed book, by which the operations of the ages were shut up to the particular degree of the work of each; all preparing the natural and spiritual world to bring forth the appropriate fruit of the seed sown & the principles in operation, and which could not appear & of course was unknown until the fulness of times for the fruit to appear. But when the spiritual and divine elements had deposited their seed in the world, and the first ripe fruit appeared "In the first born among many brethren." This opened the way for the natural elements both intelligent and material to bring forth the appropriate fruit both good and bad, that had been sown in them and nourished in the previous ages. Therefore this age was like the formation and first production of the fruit bearing ear to the world; agreeable to the similitude of Christ, that the seed "springs up, first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear." ‡ In this age the elements of the spiritual creation and order, were first revealed on earth and organized into a temporary system, so as to show their nature. This was shown in the person of Jesus Christ, and in the order of the primitive Church, "which were a kind of first fruits of his creatures". But the perfect fruit did not appear, except in the first born, in whom was the seed of perfection, for all the creatures of God, this seed was deposited in those spiritual elements, but it had to experience the chilling blasts of a spiritual winter, before it could bring forth a spiritual crop of ripe grain for the heavenly bread, as a true spiritual generation.

†, Matth. 28. 18. ‡, Mark 4. 28.

yet it was promised to be raised up again in the returning spring of the last day, or last age. "This is the will of him that sent me that of all that he hath given me, I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day".† Hence in him was the seeds of all future perfection.

But as God now dealt with man in a more deep manner than he ever had before by revealing a superior state to his rational soul; so the adversary of God worked more deep and subtle. Therefore when the light and power of the primitive Church which was all that hindred the work of the man of sin, was taken out of the way - "then that wicked" was revealed and supplanted the true revelation of God in the children of the world, and darkened the witnesses so that they were represented as clothed in sackcloth. After "the power of the holy people was scattered" "Satan transformed himself into the appearance of an angel of light" And the spirit of antichrist into the true Christ, and the false church assumed the place of the true, "in the sight of men" in the highest degree it was possible; so that the whole world in its progress was corrupted in all respects to a higher degree than it ever was before. Wars and bloodshed, persecution and the most consummate tyranny and ambition, reigned throughout the world, in the highest degree that human nature was capable of producing and sustaining; and the practical rights of conscience were unknown in the world. Here man had an opportunity to build a Babel, constituting an universal hierarchy under the names of Pagan, Mahometan, and Christian, composed of the civil, military and ecclesiastical powers; in which the glory of fallen nature was exalted to the highest pitch. But with all his inventions he could never find a heaven, he could never find holiness here, nor a

† John, 6. 39.

full assurance of happiness hereafter; but the higher he exalted a fallen nature the more miserable he was. And the judgments of God were also in proportion to the wickedness of the world; in addition to the destruction brought on by his own ambition and violence. The most awful famines, the most tremendous irruptions and convulsions of the natural elements, the most desolating plagues and pestilences, in the middle or dark ages raged through the world to such a degree, that it threatened the extinction of the human race. And the spiritual flood of iniquity and judgments, like the natural flood of Noah, swept the spiritual race from the earth, all except a chosen few who like Noah and his family, were preserved in the ark of God's covenant with "The two witnesses" as the seed of the new spiritual world, or the adjustment of a new and final spiritual age.

We may remark that as this was the first spiritual age as the first natural age was a general figure of it more than any other, and the complete destruction in that age of all in that day, was a lively figure of the complete spiritual destruction in this age; so also was the preservation of a chosen seed, to produce a new world wherein it was promised that "while the earth remained, seed time and harvest, cold & heat, day and night, shall not cease" and that the earth should no more be drowned by a natural flood. So in this spiritual age, the promise is given that spiritual day and night, seed time and harvest, shall never cease to the end of time, neither shall the spiritual floods ever more sweep away the spiritual race of man from the world; until nature and grace have both done their final work with man*. "For as I have sworn saith the Lord that the flood of Noah should no more be upon the earth, so shall

* The promise is "When thou goest thro' the waters they shall not overflow thee" &c.

your seed and your name remain. Isaiah, 54. 9.

The seventh age began by the springing up of that seed which had been preserved from the floods of iniquity & destruction in the ark of God's covenant with the witnesses. Through which means, they finally "lived and stood up upon their feet" upon the earth in that power that the world could not overcome. And they began to propogate a spiritual race. Thus they ascended in a cloud which veiled and sheltered them from the eyes & rage of natural man, into higher and higher degrees of heavenly life and power until "they ascended into heaven"* or properly gained the spiritual and heavenly order on earth. Which is the kingdom of heaven, and the introduction to heaven itself. Then began the seventh or final age in which "The mistery of God shall be finished."

We may remark that the Roman empire in which was concentrated the greatest power, and most successful ambition of man, had come to its Zenith under Augustus about the commencement of the preceding age; or rather at the close of the fifth; and soon after the beginning of the sixth; the seeds of its destruction began to operate and never ceased until it received its mortal wound by the sword of the Barbarians. The Roman empire fell simultaneously with the fall of the Christian Church, and both gave place to the antichristian beast — until at length the tyranny and exactions of this monster, became so enormous and oppressive as to be insupportable to human nature, and opened the eyes of mankind, so that it produced a division in his kingdom. This paved the way for further divisions, which ensured the final destruction of all ecclesiastical tyranny. During this age God had never

left himself

* Rev. 11-12.

without witnesses, both by living testimony and providential displays to such a degree as to show in the most convincing manner, his superintending providence over all his works. The seals, trumpets and vials had all began to operate, and the commencement of the operation of the last, trumpet concentrated the legal results mediatorial ones of each in their order, which began about the beginning of the last Century; by the great struggle for liberty and the rights of man, and by the rising in power of the spirit of the two witnesses and which have increased to this day, began a new era in the world, and prepared the way for the establishment of a Government founded on the civil and religious rights of man and for the establishment of the Church of Christs second appearing near the close of the eighteenth Century. There began the seventh and last age. Those enlightened and liberal principles both natural and spiritual, for which man was prepared by the experience of the former ages, and by the mature age of human nature, for the world has now come to that age of maturity, that it may be compared to a man that has arrived to that age wherein experience and the full grown mind, combine to make him finally wise or foolish, so that his final character must be established. Thus it is now with the world.

Therefore God has in this age began his final work, both in nature and grace which will never end until the world brings forth its highest fruit in both orders, and man returns from vague theories and inconsistent superstitions, religious tenets, "And discerns between the precious and the vile, between him that serveth God, and him that serveth him not." * Thus in the consummation of this age, Christ will have "gathered out of his kingdom all things that offend, and

* see Mal. 3, 18.

them that work iniquity." And the good will be gathered into the eternal kingdom of God, and the bad will be cast into its own element and all who cleave to it. Thus God will perfect the new heavens and new earth "wherein dwelleth righteousness" and will end and bless them in this seventh age, like the figure in the seventh day or time of creation; through # that perfect revelation, #

By the foregoing view of the ages, we may see that they are all connected and regularly grow one out of the other, as the necessary consequence of the further maturity of the world and the progress of the principles in operation in the preceding age. For we see that the first agents in each of the seven ages were prepared in the foregoing age, as the seeds of future ages. As Adam the first natural production of the earth, Noah, Moses, Solomon, Zerubabel, Jesus and Mother Ann. We also may learn the amazing power wisdom and goodness of the Divine Spirit, in creating arranging and ordering the ages, and all things in the universe so as finally to produce the best good. Though he has left man to his free agency and given him an opportunity to prove all his own inventions, and all the powers of human nature, yet he has always shown his superior wisdom; and gradually brought and is bringing man, to that state to be prepared to receive his highest good that his nature is capable of. In every age God has displayed his power so as to convince all reasonable men, as Nebuchadnezzer was convinced, that there was a Most high invisible God. "That did according to his will in the armies of heaven, and on earth among the children of men; and none can stay his hand; and those that walk in pride he is able to abase them." Yet his mercy & goodness have been shown in his dealings with man; as in human nature and the state of the world, according to the seven degrees

At the 2d appearance of the Divine Spirit in Mother's time; at the end of the preceding age, as the first spiritual agent in the last & final age of the world.

of the age of man. First as in infancy, then in childhood, then in youth, and then in manhood, a young man full of vivacity and vigor* both of body and mind, and lastly manhood in its ripe state capable of its highest destiny, and forming his final character ripe for the final harvest. Thus we see that God gave laws, & dealt with mankind according to the state and progress of human nature in the age in which they lived. And therefore learn the fulfillment of what the angel said to Ezdras, "By measure hath he measured the times and by number hath he numbered the times, and he doth not move nor stir them, until the said measure and number be fulfilled." Happy are they who learn by these things, that we are now in the last age of the world, and that the final work of God has begun; and wisely improve the day that they have to work out their everlasting good.

An illustration of the seven seals.

"And, I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne, a book written within, and on the back side sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof".† This doubtless alludes to the strong angel or messengers of providence, who directs the works and principles of nature. For though this angel is more strong or powerful than any power in nature, and could direct all the operations of providence and the growth and operations of all the principles of nature; yet he could never loose the seals of nature, under the veil

* in the first stage of manhood; after that middle age manhood; in full strength, but not full growth of mind; Then in manhood in its full strength and vigor

† Rev. V 1.2.

of which the principles of the seven ages, and the seven spiritual powers had been bound, so as to bring forth a spiritual work wherein salvation to the soul could be found, and meet out the fruits of the ages according to the true order of things, and the just judgments of God. This could only be done by him who possessed the seven spirits of God. His proclamation therefore showed that the time was come for the superior spiritual work, and that he could no longer direct the world without the correspondence of superior light and power. This proclamation commenced at the mission of John the Baptist, and continued until all the seals were opened. And no man in heaven, nor earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon." But at length "The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof." But this Lion appeared in the character of the Lamb of God, with his seven spirits. Rev. Chap. 5th.

This book was, the book of nature and grace, which contained all the principles and elements which had operated and were to operate, as the seeds in the seven ages, to produce all the ultimate fruits of the world to the end of time, & in which was written the fate of all beings. These seals shut up those principles and elements to times and seasons; hence no man was able to open them nor to see their final fruits, until the times and seasons were fulfilled, nor could the world begin to bring forth its final fruit, or full operation of the seeds sown in it, until the divine seed had first produced its first real fruit in "the Lamb". When the Lamb possessed the seven spirits of God which had directed the ages; He was found worthy and could open the book, and lose the seals by the revelation of these spirits,

then the events could be made known, and follow in their operation according to their order. / In order for a proper understanding of this subject, we must consider, that neither the seals, Trumpets nor vials, began and ended all their operations, in their numerical order, each before the next began — But the first began like the ages according to its number before the next, and so of all the rest; nevertheless the principles of each when once commenced, will continue to operate conjointly with all the rest to the end. It may easily be seen that the principles of the ages when once begun, continued to operate through all succeeding ages. The numerical order of each seal, had direct allusion to the age which it represented. Loosing the seals opened and progressively brought forth the fruits and events of the world. The trumpets declared and manifested those fruits & events of all ages, but particularly in the order of providence or outward work. The vials, were the operations more particularly of the ecclesiastical, or spiritual part, to which all things finally centre, and which produces the final consummation. The four beasts, or rather living creatures, represented, the four general dispensations of providence and grace to man, and which comprehended all ages, & through whom the calls of God come to man to the end. The spirit of the Lamb operated through these, each in its order to open the seals, and no work of God is ever produced or known but through their calls and operations. Therefore they are represented when the seals were opened, as calling each in its turn saying, "Come and see". Although they were not represented as calling, except at the opening of the first four seals, yet we may observe that the fourth seal

had introduced the declension of the primitive Church; and therefore all the seals that followed, had a relation to the fourth dispensation, either as showing its necessity in preparing for it or in its operation*: hence the same united calls of the spirit of the four dispensations remained to the final consummation "Come and see", this has always been the call of God to Rational beings, and will always continue so to be through all his works of providence and grace. The Revelation of the seals is set forth in Chapters 6th and 8th of the Revelation. When the Lamb had opened the first seal, St. John says, "I saw, and behold a white horse; and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him, and he went forth conquering and to conquer".

This was the production of the seed sown in the first age. In this age man was created and furnished with power to subdue and conquer all things below. For it is written, "What is man that thou art mindful of him; and the son of man that thou visitest him? for thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet." &c. Psalm 8 - 4th to the end.) Man was endued with power and sent forth to subdue the earth, and have dominion over it. Thus he was sent forth "conquering and to conquer" all inferior things: and was in the dignity of his order crowned above all beings below; but the crown seen was rather the reward of his Rational soul, as his reward when he had done the work given him to do. But man by his fall lost his crown in a great measure, which could only be restored in Christ. Hence St. Paul quotes the above text from Psalms,

* and that of those living creatures gave the seven trials to the saints.

and applies it to Jesus Christ. "Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. But now we see not yet all things put under him" (that is, under natural man.) He then set forth the work of Jesus Christ and shows that this final conquest would be effected in him, and in all the children of his spirit. Heb. 2 - 6th to the end.

Jesus Christ by his faithfulness and conquest over all inferior things inherited the crown of glory pertaining to the full dignity of the intelligent nature of man; and when he had conquered death, and spoiled principalities and powers, "he made a show of them openly" as the triumphs of his conquests over all" and sat down on the right hand of the majesty on high" and was "crowned with (eternal) glory and honor". Here then began the opening of that seal, which to that day had sealed and shut up the true dignity of man. Here began the real conquest of the earth, by the preaching of the gospel, the only principle and power that could conquer the powers of darkness, subdue a fallen nature, and crown the soul with glory and honor. The white horse represents human nature in innocence or purity, which carries the rational soul in its earthly work; it was first created in innocence, and became pure by the gospel. Therefore he that was called "the word of God" which is the gospel through Christ, and the armies that followed him were seen on white horses, and the sword that proceeded out of his mouth, was victorious over all nations; truly then, "He went forth conquering and to conquer." see Rev 19. 11th to the end. This same crown here seen will be the final reward of all souls who conquer and overcome, even as he overcame, and the bow or power will be given to all when they receive the gospel. For to him that overcometh (or conquereth) will I grant to sit down with me in my throne, even as I overcame, and am set down

with my Father in his throne. Rev. 3. 21. And we may see his promises to all the seven Churches are to the same import. This victorious gospel when it began to go forth "conquering and to conquer" could never cease, though its visible operation might be obscured, yet it was operating like the seed under the frozen ground of winter, and was also operating among souls in the world of spirits. Hence the parable of Christ concerning going into a far country to receive to himself a kingdom, before he returned to the final reckoning with his servants Luke 19. 12. and this victorious work seen in the opening of this seal was the ultimate end for which man was created, but which could only be effected by the gospel; Therefore the spirit of Christ which purifies human nature (which when purified is the white horse) and produces the sons of God, will go forth "conquering and to conquer" until God has finished his work with man; and will crown all his children "with glory and honor". "For both he who sanctifieth, and they who are sanctified are all of one" Heb. 2. 11. and hence are called children and brethren.

But in the order of providence, this seal opened the way for the just judgments of God against all his enemies, who were to be conquered by the executors of those judgments, whether by the sword and power of men, or by the operations of natural elements, or beasts of the field— It began its providential work in the destruction of the Jewish state, for their corruption of the purity of the law, and thus showing themselves enemies of the white horse and him that sat upon him; but above all for persecuting and putting to death the Messiah, and the witnesses of his pure gospel. Therefore the judgments of him that sat upon the white horse, have

followed them to this day, while they have continued his enemies, and will to the end. So likewise the conquering power of these judgments will follow all the enemies of this glorious conqueror to the end of time, and follow the impenitent finally to perdition. Therefore we may see that the opening of this seal commences the work that will operate everlastingly, both upon the subjects and enemies of the conqueror.

"And when he had opened the second seal — there went out another horse that was red; and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another, and there was given unto him a great sword." The seeds for the productions of the opening of this seal, were sown in the fall of man, and first began to operate in Cain's murdering righteous Abel; from whence bloodshed, enmity, and all sorts of violence were introduced into the world, which increased to such a degree that the world was destroyed by the flood. But this did not destroy enmity and violence from the heart of man; for in the second propagation of the nations of the earth; the principles of enmity, violence, war and bloodshed, were carried throughout the world. Therefore this seal had a direct allusion to this second age; for wherever these principles operate they take peace from the earth. The red horse denotes bloody principles, and its going forth with its rider, shows the bloody principles of enmity & violence carried forth into the world by beastly human nature, under the influence of the spirit of war and persecution, which is its rider into the world.

This seal was also opened by the operation of the first, for in the spiritual order, the spirit of enmity had already began to operate in the Christian Churches. Also the spirit

of persecution had also began to operate against the subjects of him that "sat on the white horse" with great violence by authority of the Governments of the world. Therefore his Righteous and all conquering judgments began to operate through the world. This opened the second seal, the principles of this enmity have & do operate in the divided sects of the world to this day, & the judgments of God always follows the spirit of persecution, and will to the end of time. / By him that sat upon the Red horse, having power to take peace from the earth, and there being given to him, "a great sword." we are to understand that the spirit of violence and bloodshed, were now to bring forth their appropriate fruits of enmity and vindictive revenge to a greater degree, and more universally through the world than was ever done before. Hence this seal was evidently began to be opened in the second Century: By more general and terrible persecutions of the Christians— By the second Jewish war carried on by more vindictive enmity and revenge than any general war ever known; which extended through the whole Roman empire, and by which Millions of the human race were destroyed & several countries were nearly desolated so as to need repeopleing from others, and indeed it effected the whole earth. Well therefore might it be said "And power was given unto him to take peace from the earth." for there was no peace to the Church and no peace to the World. These things were followed up early in the third Century by the first irruptions of the Barbarians, to revenge themselves upon the Roman empire, & these irruptions never ceased, but were repeated until the Roman empire was totally overthrown as to its earthly power by them. These principles and events were the appropriate fruits of the seeds sown and propagated through the world in the first two ages;

but which could never rise to that height to show their full nature; especially in the line of persecution, until the son of God appeared and revealed a spiritual work to supplant the natural, this raised the enmity of "the God of this world" to the highest pitch or at least to a degree that it never was before, hence the enmity of his children was displayed in proportion.

Therefore the principles of this seal have never ceased to operate in the world to this day, and never can until the kingdom of Christ is established in its triumphant glory, and even then they will reign in the hearts of the disobedient, and doubtless bring on the final struggle against the "camp of the saints" and effect the destruction of the world." "And when he had opened the third seal", I beheld and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts (living creatures) say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine".

This seal alluded to the third age, and brought forth the fruit of principles springing from seeds sown in that age. The black horse, with his rider having a pair of balances, shows a balancing system introduced into the world, under the dark veil of human nature, when the clear light could not shine, but at best types and shadows addressed through the medium of the natural senses, was the substance of all the soul could know of spiritual things.

This was the order of the third age, as exhibited in the Mosaic law. And was also set forth even in hieroglyphic figures of the heathen institutions of Religion, as may easily be found by a careful examination. These principles held the balance in the world between the natural & spiritual

elements in man, and were the only check to complete materialism in the world. And while they held this position without vindictive hostility or a persecuting spirit, they performed their proper office, and did not hurt "the oil and the wine" which means the grace light, and goodness of the principles of Godliness; as may be seen by the elementary use of oil and wine under the law, and the reference to them in the scriptures. While they held their proper balance, they kept up in the world the only ground upon which the living spirits of the Dispensations of God, could ever work to pour in the oil and wine to heal the wounds, and produce light from the oil and the joy of salvation by the "wine of the kingdom of God." Hence the spirits of the dispensations were represented as unitedly directing him that had the balances not to hurt "the oil and the wine" but while he meeted out to world the measure of food according to their present order, not to hurt the oil and wine, by confining them to that measure but to keep open the door for further spiritual grace and light that would bring greater joy to the soul. For what work of salvation could there be in all these shadows and signs? or how could the spirit of grace work on the ground of a complete beast, or materialism with no sense of any thing spiritual. Hence we see that this agent had an appropriate work, and when uncorrupted was good. The law of Moses held the balance between nature and grace, but it did not in its order prevent the increasing work of grace but was an introduction to it, yet it was delivered under a dark, or black vail, the same principles as the black horse.

But when the son of God appeared and shedded through the divine spirit a clearer light, and a higher spiritual order; then those who refused this light and order, were left under,

and were carried by the dark and black principles of a fallen nature; and could not partake of the "oil and wine"[+] And that measure of food which need to be meted out to them, as the price of conforming to the order of their dark institutions, could never satisfy their rational soul, after having been shown the light and food of the gospel, therefore if they refuse this, a famine to their souls must ensue: hence "The abomination that maketh desolate" takes place in them.

This was the case at the opening of this seal: the Christian Church had fallen into the shadow instead of the substance; they had begun to set up a religion partaking of all the dark Jewish, and even heathen shadows, mysteries, forms & titles; and this under the name of the religion of the gospel of Christ, witness their mysterious trinity, their supernatural virtue, attached to their consecrated bread and wine, oil and water; their pompous titles partaking of all the titles under the Mosaic law, and even under the heathen rituals. All these however had their price as the pretended food of souls, but shut out the heavenly "oil and wine" and caused a famine, and mourning in the spiritual mind, hence the witnesses of God were represented as covered with sackcloth, showing that the principles of the black horse prevailed, and being drawn out of his order caused famine, mourning, and darkness, for he had transgressed his instruction not to hurt "The oil and wine". Therefore darkness covered the Church, and judgments fell on the world.

Yet God preserved the spirit of the gospel (the oil & wine) in a measure in the two witnesses, so that it should not be hurt, though its manifestation might be corrupted, yet its nature was preserved ready to be revealed in the fulness of times. But those schisms and principles of the world that began to

[+] Rev. 6. 6. Amos 8. 11. Matt. 24. 15. Dan. 8. 13. Luke 21. 24.

prevail in the Church, balanced the principles of the gospel, so that the truth could not go forward, and that system of setting a price upon spiritual instruction, or food of souls, which was then introduced, has continued to this day. Here this system began, by "which through covetousness" they made a gain of the gospel & of souls; or made merchandise of them. 2 Peter 2-3.

In the outward order of providence, the measuring out a small quantity of food for a large price in proportion (for the measure here alluded to according to the original was very small) and this from an agent riding upon blackness, doubtless forbodes natural famine and death in the world as well as spiritual. And appears to mark the period of the first extraordinary and destructive famine after the Christian era, and which was the forerunner of others more terrible. As a lesson of instruction this should teach man, that God has placed a balancing principle in the world that will weigh and measure all events & all the works of man in the scales of justice; and therefore while man measures out to himself according to his feelings, genius, and light, he should take care that he does not infringe or do injustice to others, by bringing them to his own standard, and hence hurt the oil and wine in them. For "that measure that ye meet, the same shall be meeted to you again, pressed down and shaken together." yet how neglected and corrupted has this principle been in the world, for instead of being improved in its true order, it has been perverted to be a cover for the purposes of unrighteous gain, for even that system of making merchandise "of the souls of men" has been carried on under a cloak of a just balance, namely, that, "The workman is worthy of his hire" by which means the profaned ministers of the gospel sent to the poor and commanded to be

freely given; have instead of the meek and humble followers of Christ, been changed into princely lords, and the poor flock have been made poor indeed. No wonder then that a spiritual famine reigns among all the sects of christendom, nor that black should be the dress of its ministers, an emblem though unknown to them of the corrupted black horse; nor can it be wondered that the judgments of God are so evidently let loose upon the christian world. This seal began to be opened at the time Christians began to unite with the earthly Government and the sword of war, about the time of Constantine at the close of the third Century.

"And when he had opened the fourth seal, I looked and beheld, a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was death, and hell followed with him; and power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, & with hunger and with death, and with the beasts of the earth." The seeds of the principles brought forth by this seal, were sown in the fourth age by persecuting and putting to death the prophets of God, for in this age the first general operation of that principle was manifested by the Jews; and their final apostasy & consequent captivity, was figurative of the final apostasy of the Christian Church the spiritual Israel, and their consequent captivity to the Gentiles, or earthly nature.

The opening of this seal showed the reality & ultimate fruits of these principles. For the Church had become incorporated with the world, and had united with the sword of war and persecution and were supported by it. Hence it received a death blow to its life of salvation; and the Roman empire had become corrupted and debased in the highest degree, and as the Church was united with it, and an ecclesiastical establishment under it, took the lead and corrupted every principle of

the gospel; hence instead of opening the door of heaven, and bringing forth the principles of heaven and eternal life, it really opened hell, and brought forth the principles of death & hell upon earth.

These therefore must have their operation both spiritual and natural – spiritually in those soul killing and corrupt doctrines, that emenated from this hell upon earth, which have darkened the world and caused death to the spiritual work to this day. From this source arose all national and man made religions under the Christian name – All persecution and tyranny over the conscience. From the same source, "The prince of peace" was metamorphosed into the prince of war & persecution, and made to go forth with blood thirsty armies and insatiable persecutors, and massacres of harmless heretics. But their Christ was truly antichrist, the offended "God of the world" against the purity of the principles of the gospel. The establishment of this power of "death and hell" first took place in Europe and its dominions. "the fourth part of the earth" alluded to; but its principles have spread their baleful influence nearly through the earth, and still continue to operate.

At the time and after the establishment of this corrupt kingdom of antichrist, the judgments of God began to fall upon this unjust empire in all manners, by sword, famine, and pestilence, and by the beasts of the field to an unparalled degree, for by the beasts becoming so accustomed to feed on the unburied dead slain by the sword or perished by hunger, they would attack the living and devour them and so these things continued until nearly all the original inhabitants were destroyed, and succeeded by the Barbarians The particular period for the opening of this seal appears

evidently marked as the fifth Century; for about the beginning of it, Europe was ravaged by the Goths, A nation of Barbarians. Rome was taken and plundered. The Barbarians also extirpated one another, but they never ceased their ravages so long as there was any thing to revenge. In 444 all Europe was ravaged by the Huns another nation of Barbarians. At length Italy was ravaged and Rome again taken and plundered, which virtually destroyed the power of the empire. Then arose the papal beast, and from those Barbarians that overthrew the empire arose the present divided nations of Europe, amalgamated with what remained of the former inhabitants. And they have been the occasion of manyfold more wars and persecution to this day, than all the rest of the nations of the world. And also of false principles. Well therefore was the going forth of the pale horse, and the seat of the power of death and hell which he carried, declared to be over the fourth part of the earth. But the effects of this seal were not brought fully to maturity till the operations of the two next seals. These four horses and their riders answerable to the four elements and "four winds that strove on the great sea" and brought up the four beasts that tyranized over the world Dan. Chap. 7. Are the agents and elements of all the judgments of God, ever brought upon the earth; whether done by the hand of man or by the operations of the natural elements or that ever will be to the end of God's work with the race of man. Whenever any nation or people, and we may add individuals, are so wicked and unjust as to forfeit the restraining power of providence; then one or the other

or all of those agents are loosed, as the natural consequence of their sins according to the principles which they have acted in, and the judgments follow according to the nature and magnitude of the offence. Thus the balancing principles of Providence bring judgments according to truth and justice, and not according to any arbitrary appointment

After the opening of these four seals; the theme changes, no more horses were seen to go forth, which shows that the agents of Divine Judgments were now completed, therefore the three following seals show the progress of events arising from the former seals, and the events preparatory to the final age of the world, & which introduces the last day. "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, how long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and they were directed to wait a little season, until their fellow servants and brethren that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled. Rev-6-9-

The foundation of persecuting and putting to death the followers of Christ for their testimony, was laid in the fifth age, by putting to death their "Lord and master" But it was never brought to its height until the great body of the Church had fallen into union with the world, and assumed the power of persecuting and putting to death all dissenters from their corrupt Hierarchy, under the odious name of Heretics, and in this they were

supported by the sword of earthly Governments. Previous to the opening of this seal, there had been no persecuting under the Christian name, only in Anathemas, and excommunications & by influencing earthly Rulers there had been but very little if any, putting to death as Heretics. Therefore the souls seen under the altar doubtless were those put to death under Jewish and heathen persecutions, and having been faithful unto death white robes were given unto them, as a mark of their acceptance with God; but being placed under the altar, shows that there was yet to be a further increasing work for them; for the altar denotes a further sacrifice and offering that they must pass through to be perfected; But before this final work could come, the way would be prepared for the judgments of God upon both the Church and world, by shedding the blood of harmless Heretics who were their fellow servants and brethren in their testimony against the corruptions of the world, practised in the highest degree under a Christian name, and by whom persecution would be carried to its height, far beyond what it ever was by Jews or heathens. This would open the way for the final overthrow of the Church, in that day and for that universal darkness, & those terrible judgments that followed, and which showed "the wrath of him that sat on the throne" and of the Lamb to a degree never known before. The opening of this seal manifests the acceptance of God of all those souls who lose their lives for an upright testimony in the cause of truth; and the glorious rewards and promises to them. It also manifests the certainty of the most terrible judgments of God that will in due time, be manifested upon all persecutors to the end of the world however long delayed. The effects of persecution manifested in what followed in the opening of the next seal, show that all

who participate in persecutions, though they may be as stars in heaven for light and brightness; yet it will cover them with blackness and darkness and cast them to the earth. The Christian Church never totally fell to the earth until it assumed this principle, and then its fall was complete, and its effects in the world were awful.

J. P. |."And I beheld, when he had opened the sixth seal, and lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair and the Moon became as blood, and the stars of heaven fell to the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind; and the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and Island were moved out of their place": It then describes the universal consternation and terror among all people, kings and great men, bond and free; endeavoring to hide themselves, "from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb;" for the great day of his wrath is come, and who shall be able to stand? The opening of this seal brought forth the productions of the sixth age, when it had reached its maturity of violence and corruption; so as to bring forth the combined operations of Divine judgments. The great earthquake was caused first, In the Church by the concentration of those principles of enmity and strife, for the preeminence which had taken the place of the meekness of the spirit of Christ which teaches to be "least of all and servant of all". This generated bitterness and opposition; and second, by the attraction of the earthly principles of lust, pride, and ambition, which gained such an ascendancy in the Church; that it could not continue together, for

there was still a heavenly principle remaining in it, in upright individuals. When therefore the heavenly scroll or spiritual testimony of the law of Christ was rolled up and placed in the heavenly temple out of the reach of man; so as to be secured from corruption ready to be revealed in purity in due time; the attractions of the spirit and principles of the world were so strong, that those who had any measure of the heavenly attraction could not abide with it;* & the spirit of bitterness was so strong that many parties in the Church rose up and strove for the mastery. Then those discordant principles in its own bowels burst, and exploded, & caused the great earthquake which cast far the greatest part of the professors of the Christian name to the earth; and even many of the stars of heaven, that is, those who formerly had great lights (& were bright geniuses) in the Church; these were cast to the earth, so that they began to lead into and build on earthly principles; or to accommodate the principles of the gospel to the spirit of the world. It is inconsistent to believe that the stars of the natural heaven should be cast to the earth, for nearly all of them are larger than this earth. But it means, the stars of the spiritual heaven. When after this, there was never from that day until the second appearing of Christ, any true Church, or body of people in whom his spirit dwelt. But all the testimony of God, was in "the two witnesses" that is scattered individuals that prophesied & bare testimony for the truth and against the corruptions of the times. For the power of the holy people was scattered see Dan. 12-7. The light of the sun of righteousness which had risen in Christs first appearing, was obscured, and the principles of the gospel were so construed, that they were blackness

*antichristian temple, & false worship drove it; appeared to the sanctuary vision see Matt 24. 15 & 18.

and darkness to souls — Then the witnesses of God were represented as "clothed in sackcloth", showing that the true light of Christ was not with them. Sackcloth is emblematical of mourning and darkness, but "The children of the Bride chamber will not mourn while the Bridegroom is with them. The Moon represents the light and genius of nature, because its light is borrowed from the sun, and gives light in conjunction with the stars to the earth in the night; so is the light and genius of nature borrowed from the spiritual sun, and gives light in the benighted state of nature, where the true sun does not shine. This was represented as turned into blood. This means, first, The light of this false Church which had now fallen into the elements of nature, was borrowed from the light of the sun of God in the primitive Church. These were now corrupted and turned into the bloody principles of persecutions, and the most bloody religious wars under the name of holy crusades, or wars for, "the propagation of the faith, the benign Religion of Jesus."

Second. This earthquake was caused in the world, by the spirit of bitterness, ambition, and revenge in the nations of the earth, and in that Religious phrenzy in the world that originated many sects and parties, which contended with great bitterness, and which rent the Church in pieces, and also brought forth the Mahometan Religious power. All these shook and broke the Roman empire to pieces, as well as all the powers of Christendom. And introduced what is emphatically called, "The dark ages". which began at the ~~end~~ of the seventh Century after the establishment of the papacy as universal Bishops. And the establishment of the Mahometan empire. which spread with such amazing

rapidity through a great portion of the world. And the dark principles of the papal power which spread by Religious wars and bloody persecutions through the fairest portions of the earth. All these rendered the world as it were a field of blood, all the genius of nature, all the glory of man, and his highest aim and ambition were turned to these bloody principles. Well therefore was the Moon (the light and genius of nature) represented as turned into blood. These dark ages lasted about eight hundred years, to the Reformation. During which time nearly every ancient nation — every ancient Religion and institution in the world were shaken to pieces & overturned, leaving nothing but their wrecks to amalgamate & form a new order of things. And since that time, the same shaking principles continue even more rapidly: but in a different manner, for in those dark ages, they operated by darkening the minds of men and leading them by superstition and phrenzy to the dissolution of all their former Governments & institutions. But in these last days, the same shaking principles operate, by enlightening the minds of man to see his natural and Religious Rights, and these will continue to operate until all things "that can be shaken will be shaken out, that those things that cannot be shaken may only remain". Heb 12-26. &c. And nothing will remain unshaken but that which is according to the order of God. Hence no similitude could better represent the general effects of the principles of this seal, than every mountain and Island being moved out of their place, and the universal consternation of all orders and grades of natural men in consequence. Mountains signify Institutions of strength and power, whether natural or Spiritual, but especially alludes to the highest, or leading

power or Government in any order; as may easily be seen by its use in scripture. As "the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills" Micah 4-1. and many similar texts. Islands represent religious institutions, established for the rest and refreshment of souls in their voyage over the temptations sea of time. Hence the Lord saith "Listen to me O Isles." Isaiah But all these "as the things that are made" of man; will be shaken and moved out of their place by the operation of the above principles. Therefore all people will seek to cover themselves with their mountains and rocks of natural strength, # to hide them from the face or light of God: and from the wrath or judgments of the spirit of Christ, against all these institutions of natural natural man: but they cannot effect it. Hence these principles prepares the way for the final work of the last age, in which "The mystery of God will be finished.

1.P. The next Chapter, 7th shows the restraining of the four agents of judgment, until the servants of God were sealed in their foreheads, that is in the image of the countenance of the son of God. And there were sealed 144,000 of all the tribes of the children of Israel. The mission of Christ in his first appearing, was peculiarly to the Jews, and to supplant the Jewish state and law; The Apostles were promised to sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.* hence the representation of the peculiar servants of God, for whose sake the fullness of judgments were restrained until their numbers were fulfilled; these were represented as of the tribes of Israel. Though a great multitude was seen before the throne out of all nations, praising God and the Lamb for salvation. These completed the number of the faithful

and on the dark figure, by system which they fashioned;

* see Matt 19-28.

and those who were saved in that dispensation. And then the judgements of God changed and were directed to prepare the way for the final work.

P. 1 "And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour". The opening of the foregoing seals, had set forth the operations of natural things and of providence to the end of the world. The seventh seal was an emblem of the seventh day of creation in which God rested from his creative works in the natural order, and ended and blessed them by introducing the first figure of the spiritual work, for though he rested from his natural works yet he did the most important work of all on that day, "for he ended and blessed all his works". This must be a spiritual work for the natural was already ended. Therefore here was the first spiritual work on earth, and hence the first distinction between good & evil: for he could only bless the work of his own spirit, and that there was an opposite spirit was evident, otherwise man would not have been warned to "keep" his garden; this was doubtless given on this day, for if God rested from his natural labours, man must also be in a place to rest, hence he was doubtless put into his inheritance on this day, which is a figure of the final inheritance of the saints. This direction to keep it was given when he was introduced into the garden. And then the sabbath was instituted as a representation of a spiritual work, and of the final rest of souls from all natural works.

The short silence at the opening of this seal, denotes a time of rest from natural labours, and a time of deliberation in heaven upon the final age, and that important spiritual

work which should end and bless all the works of God in all worlds, both in heaven and earth: and make the final distinction between good and evil. It was also like God's first resting from his natural works, and then introducing the beginning of a spiritual work and institution. It further represented, that all things had by the previous operations and judgments, been brought to a stand, that all their wisdom was confounded, and that they had to wait upon God alone for further knowledge and for a further work; this will be the case with all nations and individuals before the final spiritual work takes place in or among them.

After this the work of the seven trumpets, and seven vials are set forth in succession; Until the last seal was opened; there must still be some mystery attached to the destiny of the world and the final fate of man; nor could the productions of any age be perfectly understood. Therefore the trumpets and vials, the manifesters and finishers of the work of all ages, were not introduced in the vision until the last seal was opened, then all the mysteries of God could be opened and "finished." We are further to understand, that until this silence and deliberation in heaven has brought forth the plan of the work of the last age and the work has commenced, no man can fully understand the nature and work of the trumpets nor vials. Though these have been for ages operating in the world, but natural man with all his wisdom can never understand them. "For the things of God, knoweth no man but by the spirit of God." Hence in this silence and waiting upon God, the spiritual work can only be manifested and professed by any, for until they cease

from their own works and wisdom; they cannot work the work of God. Therefore God commands, "Keep silence before me all flesh, saith the Lord." This command must be obeyed by any soul in order to inherit his final work and kingdom: therefore this is the last seal to be opened to man.

Much labor has been spent by learned and penetrating natural men, in calculating the figurative predictions of the Revelations. But the truth is, the most penetrating mortal without the light of the spirit of God, could never calculate the true order and operations of spiritual things. Therefore those calculators have erred by confining those predictions almost wholly to natural events, while of the real nature of their principles, and of the spiritual part, they appear to be greatly ignorant. And even of the true cause and ultimate object of those events, which from the concurrence of circumstances they were able to understand in some measure, they were also ignorant. Nearly all their ideas have placed the glory of the work of God in visible and natural splendor; and they appear to have the same ideas of the glory and nature of the final kingdom of Christ, as the Apostles had before they received the Holy Spirit. (see Acts 1:6) For until the spirit of Christ as Lamb of God, has opened in them all the seals of nature; so that their spiritual powers can see and discern the things of God; man can never understand spiritual calculations & principles.

And hence he will till then take the figure rather than the substance, for man is a world in miniature, he has in himself all its principles and elements both natural & spiritual; he has therefore his seven ages and seven spiritual powers sealed up under the seven seals of the veil of nature; This was

the vail that was represented to be rent in twain at the crucifixion of Jesus by the vail of the temple being rent, for until this vail was rent by his spirit ascending out of nature, there could be no real spiritual sight and knowledge. But when this was effected and he had sat down with his Father in his throne, then he began to loose the seals of nature, by which the spiritual powers were bound; then the spiritual mark could begin to be seen and understood, and the fruits of the ages both in individuals and in the nations of the world also begin to show their appropriate operations, as fast as the seals were taken off, until the final work and "harvest of the world" shall take place. But until the last seal of nature, which is carnal lusts and ties, is loosed and taken off, the soul is never brought into complete silence before God so as to seek knowledge of his spirit and of that only and to become passive to do his will and that alone. Until this takes place in all his ideas and objects, there is always selfish motives and natural bias that sways him in all his operations from the clear light & true work of God.

That this is the last seal of nature cannot reasonably be disputed, because it is the last thing that man is willing to part with, this is his highest affection, that more or less seals all the rest to its subserviency. Hence the Revelations are not a book that is to be considered as affecting nations and Churches in a collective capacity only; but intimately concerns each individual. He may see that all the seals of nature are to be loosed in him by a spiritual work, before he can hear the trumpets of the seven spirits of God, (from whence all these sevens are derived) sound to declare the true mark of the seven spirits of providence, and especially of the seven spirits of the Lamb; which are the sight and

† Rev. respecting the Books of these corresponding Spirits

and power of salvation. And until then if the wrath of those spirits is poured out against evil, they will operate against him instead of operating for him. Therefore wise are they that labor to be prepared to hear the trumpets of God sound to declare his work in its fullness, and to receive the vials of righteous judgments in such a manner as to separate evil from them, and not to be destroyed with it.

Concerning the seven Trumpets.

It will be proper first to remark, that the operation of the principles of the seals when opened; must each come to a certain degree of maturity, so that the fruits can be properly manifested, before the declarations and effects of the trumpets can begin to appear; hence the dates for the beginning of the trumpets must be subsequent to the corresponding number of the seals. The manifestations by the trumpets of the effects of opening some of the seals, began sooner than in others†, according to the greatness of the work effected thereby and the shorter or longer space of time that they were the leading theme of prophecy. And so it is also with the vials in respect to the trumpets. And likewise as each when begun was to last to the end of the work in its effects in a greater or less degree; (time on did not end when the next began) Therefore each has its seven degrees or days, in which its operations are renewed. For the angel declared that "In the days of the voice of the angel of the seventh trumpet when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God shall be finished" Hence we see that there are several days or times for the operations of the different degrees of this trumpet. And as all the ages and seals &c. are divided by sevens, and amenable to the seven spirits of God; this shows that each of those spirits has its appropriate work

† As respects the dates of their corresponding seals.

in each number as well as a corresponding work with all the rest, this makes their seven general days or times, and hence seven degrees of operations, and all are finished by the seventh that is by righteousness and justice. Then all the fruit must remain in the order that is rightfully found to be their state.

"And I saw the seven angels that stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets." These were doubtless the ministers of the seven spirits of God, the declarers & manifesters of their works. But before the judgments of God should be manifested in the world, and before the dark ages that were to follow really commenced, it was necessary that an order should be provided and a way prepared whereby a degree of the light and power of the Christian dispensation, should be preserved in the world.* Therefore "another angel came & stood at the altar having a golden censer; and there was given him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angels hand." This was the spiritual administration that continued while the temple of God was open by the primitive Church standing in its rectitude; during this time pure offerings and prayers could be offered from the golden censer of a pure mind, and they would be united to the heavenly anointing of pure spiritual incense, and carried before the throne of God by this angelic element and medium. This was the same as the daily sacrifice, that was taken away by the horn of antichrist. see Dan 8..11. This continued until "The power of the holy people" began to be scattered by divisions and contentions, and by falling more into earthly principles—

* Therefore all flesh must have been destroyed. see Mark, 13. 20.

Then the measure of those who worshipped God in the temple and approached the Golden altar that is pure spiritual altar, so as to keep the way open for others to enter the holy place or spiritual work and order was finished. This is the measure spoken of in the 11th Chapter of Revelations.

After this as the order of the temple or Church was withdrawn from the world - The angel took the censer, (a portion of the spiritual element) and filled it with fire of the altar, & cast it to the earth; and there were voices and thunderings and an earthquake. This signified, that the true order of the Church was withdrawn from the earth, and that some of the fire was scattered in witnesses, in the earthly nature, that it there worked by Divine impressions both in the natural and spiritual order for a witness of God and of the gospel; & against all the corrupt establishments of fallen man, both civil and ecclesiastical; and also to prepare the way for the final gospel of Christ's second appearing. It was through these means that any divine light was preserved in the earth thro' the long night of antichristian darkness. This fire being cast to the earth shows that the true Church could not be found, for that is never represented as cast to the earth, & if it had stood open, souls might have found the divine fire there instead of in the earth. Christ this fire was the spirit of "The two witnesses". This works in nature to preserve the knowledge of God in the mind of man, and to prepare the way for the gospel. Therefore, it is manifested by calls of Divine light among men, which produce revivals of spiritual work at divers times and places and will to the end; and then they will be followed in due time by divers calls of "the everlasting gospel" These voices also work in the providential order

to cause revolutions of light upon the natural and religious rights of man. These calls and operations cause the thundering of divine power to be heard and felt among men, to wake them up to natural or spiritual duties. From these proceed "Lightnings" meaning Divine Light, wherever these things operate both natural and spiritual in the world. Then follows the "earthquake" for wherever these things take place, the earthly principles & powers are convulsed and shaken; and will finally by the operation of providence and grace in the last age, be shaken to pieces, until all things are shaken out which are not of God. The trumpets did not begin to sound until after this order was established and declared, which showed that the real manifestation of the trumpets did not begin, so as to declare the judgments of God both natural and spiritual, until after the Church began to fall into the elements of the world. Then "the seven angels, which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. And the first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth; and the third part of the trees was burnt up and all green grass was burnt up." Rev 8. 6.7. The third part so much spoken of in the Revelations, evidently alludes to the earthly nature in man, as man is composed of "body, soul, and spirit" hence the Apostle prays that they might be sanctified throughout, body soul & spirit." It is through this earthly part (elements of the body) that the principles of nature work, and they attract the rational soul to the fallen elements of this world. And it is in this state that the judgments of God are manifested against it; therefore until the Church had began to rebel against the conqueror that went forth "upon the white horse" at the opening of the first seal, by falling into earthly

principles, the judgments of God could not overtake the Church with the world, and truly it was the falling into this third part that caused those effects and judgments as the natural fruits of the principles thus brought into operation. Therefore this trumpet manifested that all who had fallen into this state were destroyed, though they had been "Trees of righteousness" "The planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified" Isaiah 61-3. bringing forth spiritual fruit, the same to which Christ alluded when he said "As my Father hath ordained me, even so have I ordained you, that ye should bear much fruit" "And herein is my Father glorified that ye bear much fruit" + When therefore the great body of the Church ceased to administer to this glory, then that glory fell upon them in dishonor and judgments. "For they that honor me I will honor with the Lord" and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed. 1 Sam 2-30. Hence all those trees that fell into that earthly nature, were burnt up so as to be withered and bring forth no spiritual fruit by the fire of nature in them, and the divine fire against them. And by the bloody principles of strife and war against each other in the world with which they had united. this judgment was consummated. It does not appear then that this trumpet really began until the Church began to divide between Catholics and Hereticks about the end of the second (or beginning of the 3d) Century, & until the Christians had taken part in wars and with the Government of the World; so far at least that the Church held communion with such as members that did so. These things so far vitiated the true principles of the gospel, as to render the soil of the Church barren, so that it not only could not bring forth any spiritual grass, for "all flesh is grass" therefore man in his natural and spiritual planting and growth, is likened

+ John. 15-8.

into grass, trees &c. But this also destroyed that which was springing up and was then young and tender, represented as "green" That is, instead of the young and tender fruits of the gospel, called "plants of the Lord's planting", or, "the tender grass of the field" being watered by "the dew of heaven" or spirit and elements of Christ as was promised; in Christs coming, they having fallen to the earth, these plants were burnt up by the fire of nature; and the Christian ground never brought forth any more genuine plants, until this fire was put out and the ground was devil-tivated by the good husbandmans Return "to give to the Church her (good fields and) vineyards "again. Hosea 2. 15. Then will they be fields and vineyards that the Lord hath blessed, and bring forth good plants and "bear much fruit" again. All these effects will follow the principles of this trumpet to the end of time. The hail and blood, are the declarations of providential judgments, both by the operations of the natural elements, and by wars and persecutions, & their consequences, wherever the aforesaid principles should operate. This trumpet also declared the commencement of that period of trouble, tyranny and superstition, that prevented all improvements in the minds of men in the spiritual and even sciences of nature, which are the green grass or plants of nature, both in a moral and natural point of view. This began by the combined effects of the establishment of superstition in the Church, instead of the principles of the gospel; and the dark policy and tyranical principles of earthly Governments, after the Roman empire began to fall, and the same is continued by the same principles and cannot be prevented only by those influences, & their power being broken by the true light natural and spiritual.

That these events cannot be litteral, must be self evident; for a fire that would produce these events, would destroy every human being; hence they must be similitudes to represent the effects of principles both natural and spiritual: otherwise the first trumpet must destroy the whole human race. The data for this trumpet appears to be about the close of the second Century, when both the Church & empire showed a rapid decline.

'And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea; & the third part of the sea became blood; and the third part of the creatures that were in the sea and had life, died; & the third part of the ships were destroyed.' This evidently could not be litteral, for no man can suppose that a third part of the water in the sea ever did or ever will become blood. But the sea represents the troubled nations of the earth in fallen nature. For, "the wicked are like the troubled sea, whose waters cast up mire and dirt." This was the sea out of which 'The beast arose". By the great mountain burning with fire being cast into the sea, signifies that the power & government of the Church was cast down into the troubled world, by the fire of contention; and earthly attractions, and marks the time when the Church began to refer its disputes to earthly princes, and was modeled under their authority upon the principle and after the order of the Roman empire; and when first the Government of the Church was united with that of the world. Therefore its strength fell into the earthly and third part, and hence its blood or life was lost in that natural state, and every one that had the life of the gospel when they fell into that state, died. And those institutions

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that were made to carry man over this boisterous sea were destroyed, as soon as they fell into nature and lost the power and light of truth, and all that are established in nature's principles will fail and be destroyed. And the Government of the Roman empire, by the like fire of contentions, fell into this troubled sea of the people; where many ambitious leaders rose up, and contended by the sword and shed much blood it is not improbable that even a literal third of the people lost their blood in those fierce civil wars, that began before Constantine came to the throne, and were continued with savage fury and cruelty by him and Licinius and their successors; and also by the invasions of the Barbarians until the empire was divided thereby and finally fell.

Thus the mountain of the Roman Government both civil and ecclesiastical fell, by the fire of fierce passions into "the troubled sea" out of which finally a new Government arose, in both orders civil and ecclesiastical, in the Catholic Hierarchy. Thus the Roman Government and power, or mountain of strength, fell, and lost its life, by the principle of blood. And the Christian Church lost its life by the same means; and the same principles have continued to operate in this "sea" unto this day, through various stages and degrees; and have always produced the same fruits according to the degree of their operation, and will to the end of the world; and will always bring on similar judgements.

It need not be doubted, that the destructions mentioned in this trumpet allude outwardly to the ravages and devastations caused in the earth by wars & persecutions. But the real operations of this trumpet is the manifestation of the principles of the "Red horse and him that sat upon him

throughout the world among all people wherever they operate to the end. This trumpet began to sound about the year 300. When the Church and the Government of the world began to unite, for soon after this Constantine favored the Christians and drew them into his interest, and shortly after ordered all heathen temples to be destroyed; and became the arbiter of the Church.

"And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters And the name of the star was called wormwood; & the third part of the waters became wormwood, and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter".

Previous to the sounding of this trumpet, there appears to have been a general and gradual declension of the Church, yet the greatest conformity to the world and the greatest religious corruption, pomp and splendor, was centered in the Bishop and Church of Rome; and this Church & Bishop was gradually gaining the ascendant; yet many of the branches of the Catholic Church or Churches in other places likened to rivers had yet preserved a greater purity, & had not been greatly effected by the struggle for superiority nor by having specific doctrines imposed upon them by the authority of universal councils. There had not been any establishment of a Trinity of persons in the Godhead nor of two natures in Christ, nor had there been any canon of scriptures established; as the universal faith of all Christians, by those self stiled Fathers of the universal Church in general council. Each Church stood in a measure independant, at least as it respected the general

Christian doctrines; therefore the wormwood of bitterness and contention, had not fallen upon the fountain of their waters, for the pure gospel is a fountain of living waters, as shown abundantly in scripture. Hence an adulterated gospel, in its fundamental doctrines is, "the fountains of waters" of all who are baptized into them. Therefore when there rose up some in the Church that under pretence of Divine light taken from the Revelations of the scriptures that fell with bitter contentions upon the general doctrines of this universal Church. This caused a confusion in all the branches or divers of the Church, and caused that universal bitterness that may well be likened to wormwood, so bitter as to cause death. This was commenced by the doctrine of Arius, the forerunner of whose doctrines was Sabellius, but Arius was the first who formed the doctrine that in Christ there was but one nature into a system, that exited the opposition of the orthodox party; in the beginning of the fourth century, and was followed up by Pelagius, Nestorius, Athenasius, and further followed up by that bitter and bloody fanatic of Africa, called St. Augustine in the fifth century. Perhaps greater and more blood thirsty bitterness was never manifested in any human being than in him. This called forth a succession of councils of the pretended Fathers and Representatives of the universal Church, from the council of Nice in 325. to the council of Ephesus in 431. In which the Canon of scripture - The trinity - Unconditional election and Reprobation, and of eternal decrees were settled as the orthodox faith, this last doctrine St. Augustine has the peculiar honor of being the Father of.# These were all

he was also the first that broached that abominable doctrine, that the most pious Christians live in sin - by praying 1 John 1:9. To save Debating on argument.

settled by the authority of those councils as the fundamental faith and doctrines of all Christians. Though the decrees of those councils varied on either side according to the tenets of those flaming stars, who had the greatest influence at the time being. Yet all these doctrines were finally established and the key stone of this antichristian arch for the foundation of the Catholic Church, was put on by the lordly influence of Leo, Bishop of Rome; in the council of Chalcedon in the year 451. This finishing stroke to the corruption of the original simple doctrines of the gospel was, "that in Christ, two distinct natures were united in one person, & that without any change, mixture or confusion."

When this was effected what could hinder the greatest evil, tyranny, injustice, unholiness, cruelty & bitterness and every abominable work, from being united together with goodness, benevolence, justice, holiness, mercy, peace and every good thing, without any change mixture and confusion?. No wonder then that all those carnal principles were practised in the Catholic Church under the profession of the benign gospel, the fountain of living waters. Let it be remarked that Arius, Nestorius, Pelagius, Eutychus Augustin and Leo; the principle agents of the dissensions that produced these effects; professed to take their light on these subjects, from the original heavenly principles of the Church. But they were all corruptions and fallen from that heavenly order of original light, yet those men were men of great talents and flaming genius: & shone like lamps in the eyes of the multitude, and they had all been leaders or stars in the Church, by which means they attracted multitudes, and convulsed and divided the whole

Christian world. Though some were on one side & some on the other, yet their combined operations formed this burning mountain of bitterness that fell upon the waters or principles of the Catholic Church, and poisoned the fount and all its streams. Hence they rent the Church in twain and the great body or Catholic Hierarchy all fell into this troubled sea, from the smaller body and its branches who preserved a greater degree of the original principles of the gospel, and who have from that time been branded as Heretics. And each party in turn were supported by the power and sword of the earthly Government, & persecuted their opposers, until all had to bow to the superior power of the Roman Pontiff, except those few who had the courage to stand their ground, and face the united opposition of all the Catholic parties supported by the power of the earthly Government. | The persecuting bitterness of the parties in those schisms exceeded all bounds. And this bitterness has never ceased in the world, to this day. Well therefore did the figures of Revelation represent the star of wormwood falling upon their fountains of waters and all their rivers for the Catholic Church and all its branches was corrupted so that many men who had a measure of the original life of the gospel, lost that life and died by those corrupt and bitter principles thus established. And many, very many have lost their natural lives, by the bitter wars and persecutions that followed from these principles: as those disputes were about speculative tenets, & the canons of the Church were founded on such speculations & useless ceremonies, instead of a life of righteousness. Hence it reduced their gospel to "A form without the power". And the

* for they followed both the Church & the empire bottom parties

same bitterness raged in the empire by the dissentions that arose in the Government, from the operations of these principles among the successors of Constantine; by which the power of the empire was balanced, and finally divided, which paved the way for its final overthrow. These principles also balanced the power of the Church, so as to prevent all further increase and caused its final death as the body of Christ. As these are dark and corrupt principles, hence we see that this trumpet is the manifestation of the corrupted principles of "the black horse and his rider" with his balances seen in the third seal ;‡ and they will never cease to operate to the consummation of a corrupt world. But they can only work in the earthly nature as "third part" for all who were above its attractions, could not be overcome by them, therefore "the oil and wine" were preserved by those who refused to be baptized into this corrupt fountain, and any of its rivers, all of whom have been handed down to this day as Heretics.

"And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the Sun was smitten, and the third part of the Moon, and the third part of the stars, so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it and the night likewise." No one can suppose that this ever was litterally fulfilled. St Peter saith at the day of Pentecost "This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel, and it shall come to pass in the last days (saith God) that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh, &c." The Sun shall be turned into darkness and the Moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come". see Acts 2. 16 to 20. Now nothing litteral of this kind had

‡ for they [illegible] both the Church & the empire between parties

really
taken place upon the natural Sun or Moon, hence we must
consider it alluded to the light of the spiritual Sun, & Moon
the light of nature, or to the darkness that fell upon natural
and spiritual principles. It doubtless alluded to the spiritual
and natural light of the Jewish dispensation, which from
this time was turned into darkness. Hence the darkness of
this trumpet fell upon the light of the Church, and upon
the natural light of the Roman people, agreeable to the
above principle stated by St. Peter. The preceding trumpets
had manifested the gradual progress of spiritual darkness
upon the principles of the Church, and had traced them
up to the period when the Catholic gospel was established
in the room and stead of the gospel of Christ. It now Remained
for the effects of the propagation of this gospel to be manifested.
Therefore this fourth trumpet began by manifesting its
first effects, which were an immediate increase of spiritual
darkness upon all who had conformed to the earthly order
of the world, until in its progress it brought on the total
darkness declared by succeeding trumpets. There was still
some latitude for the operation of spiritual light in the
different Churches though they professed to be of the orthodox
Church, for the ecclesiastics had not yet obtained the power
of persecution in their own hands exclusive of the earthly
government, and could only exercise it by influencing
the civil Government — hence different parties obtained
the ascendant at different times, this in some measure
balanced the power of persecution, and gave room for
some exercise of the primitive faith, so that the Sun was
not totally darkened, but only to them that conformed to
nature. But the Catholic faith and power was shown

by this trumpet to be gradually gaining ground, by the darkening of the sun of Righteousness. And these same principles having effected the Roman people and Government, their ancient light and natural genius seemed "smitten with darkness" so that all their plans and operations appeared to be dark, foolish, confused, and weak. Hence they became an easy prey to the Barbarians, for if any leader rose that appeared for a time to revive and display the ancient Roman genius and valor, he was sure to be sacrificed to envy; and if any bright star arose in the Church and attempted to revive the original light of the gospel in any measure; he was sure to be sacrificed by persecution, until there remained no light nor power to save the empire or Church this was in the sixth century, also a terrible plague raged all over the known world.

Therefore we may see that this trumpet was the manifestation of the principles of "the pale horse, and of death that sat on him and hell that followed" to the end of time. for though the seat of their power was in Europe and its vicinity, "the fourth part" yet they have spread through all nations. Hence this trumpet declares the principles of the fourth seal; for as far as this Catholic gospel which corrupted all the principles of the original gospel prevailed, it darkened the original light of the Church and shut out the days of this spiritual sun. Therefore here began the reign of antichrist, the same as the "little horn" spoken of by the prophet Daniel, that should make war with the saints and prevail against them until the ancient of days should come, and judgment should be given to the saints. Hence the reign of antichrist should continue until this mark should commence. see Dan. Chap 7. 21 to the end. This trumpet began about the close of the fifth

Century, when the Catholic gospel was established, and began to be propogated under the supreme power of the Roman Pontiff.

"And I beheld and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying, with a loud voice, woe, woe, woe to the inhabiters of the earth, by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels which are yet to sound! The judgments that would follow were to be more dreadful and terrible, than any ever before on earth, and were in the end to finish the work of God on earth, to this race of men; hence the consummation of woes would be in them to the inhabiters of the earth.

"And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth; and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the Sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth; and unto them was given power as the scorpions of the earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads Rev 9. 1 to the 4.th the succeeding verses to the 11.th describes these locusts and their work, and closing by saying, "And their power was to hurt men five Months;" The manifestation of this trumpet are very extensive, although what is said in the fifth seal, the operations and effects of which it declares is short, alluding only to those who had been slain, under the power of the earthly Government and showing a further work of persecution under the Christian name, and the promise of judgements to avenge their blood. &c. —

Previous to antichrist being established in his kingdom with independent power, persecution could only be effected by the earthly Government; and there had not been any established system of persecution under the Christian name; though the earthly Government had been in some cases influenced to it by different parties. But it had been mostly done by the pagans. But after the Catholic gospel had been established, & the ecclesiastics had got the power of persecution into their own hands; then their creeds and systems of faith were enforced by all the terrors of persecution, and all the dissenters were persecuted by all imaginable horrors; and banished from the society of men and from all inheritance upon earth, as far as the infernal zeal and power of this corrupt Hierarchy extended. By this means all who retained any measure of the original purity of the gospel were banished from the Catholic world. Then the darkness of this hell upon earth was completed. But it does not appear that the dark principles that had their birth under this trumpet, came to their maturity until the opening of the next seal for it was the meridian of their operations that caused the universal darkness and confusion described at the opening of that sixth seal. But those principles arose from this sink of corruption and went into full operation under this fifth seal. The heaven spoken of in the Revelations, unless when some term is affixed to show that it means the true heavenly order; represents the highest and most popular ecclesiastical establishment in the world where natural men placed their ideas and hopes of heaven.

And when we read of a star falling to the earth from this heaven, we are not to understand one man only but an influence or power that arose from it and operated

on earth in a different and more natural order, for the "little horn" of antichrist was not any particular man, but a certain power and influence, though it first centered in Leo the great; and so of the stars that he cast to the earth, it was the powers and influences of the Church. Therefore the star that fell from this heaven to the earth, was a certain influence that operated in the natural world, to bring forth that dark element which produced those beasts here described. At the time of the falling or rather coming forth of this star, the power of the Roman pontiff was confirmed as universal Bishop, and the Catholic world seemed to be the very seat of darkness and infernal principles itself; it might as to its elements be well likened to "the bottomless pit," for its doctrines and elements proceeded from those corrupt principles and that false spirit, which are bottomless in darkness and lead to endless perdition, for it was from their composition that the beast arose that "goeth into perdition".

p— It was the horrid wars, bitter dissensions and bloody persecutions, to propogate and defend the Catholic gospel, that first presented to the enterprizing mind of Mahomet, the idea of forming a religious faith and system more reasonable and more consistent and agreeable to the nature of man; not so much under the blind fury of religious fanaticism; and at the same time calculated to be more agreeable to reason and more conformable to the Jewish and Christian faith, than the pagan idolatry of his countrymen. He therefore first began to teach the unity of God, abandonment of idols, and living according to the principles of nature, and that he was the Apostle of God to effect this work among all nations. He first began to

* This was to accord with Providence to effect the prophecies of this trumpet, & fulfill the promise to "the woman under the altar."

preach peaceably, and forbid all force, and perhaps would never have resorted to the sword, had not his enemies forced him to it. But being drove to it in self defence and being successful he borrowed the principle from Jews & Catholicks, that the sword was the means that God had appointed & put into the hands of him and his followers to convert the world to his unity, and destroy idolatry.# He therefore to propogate his power and influence in the minds of natural men, assisted by apostates from the Catholic and Jewish Religions in their then state, framed a system of Religion & Government more adapted to the carnal pleasures, ambition, and worldly policy of man than any system ever before on earth. Therefore it was from the Jewish and Catholic heaven, or Religious systems, that Mahomet brought down that star or influence to the carnal state of man, that in conjunction with the dark principles of the Catholic world; darkened "the air", or very life and elements of human nature, and obscured the light of Revelation and Reason, or the Sun and Moon. And which brought forth those conquering Legions & missionaries of the Mahometan power, that were as swift as the flight of the locusts in their march of conquests, and as greedy as the locusts in their rapacity for dominion & devouring Ravages.

But Omar their second Caliph, or <u>successor</u> of <u>Mahomet</u> commanded them as a standing law; "That they should not hurt or destroy the grass, or any plants, or fruits, or trees of the earth" in any of their wars, and their wars were especially directed against Idolaters and Catholicks "who had not the seal of God." They would not persecute Heretickes, nor even Jews for their Religion, but protect them

That was to extend by overcome to effect the judgments of this trumpet. & further the promise to a the souls under the altar.

if they would take shelter under their power, nor was it according to their law to kill any who submitted to their power. And the plagues of this darkness and misery, by the clashing operations and terrible wars of these Catholic and Mahometan principles, astonished and dismayed mankind to that degree; that they were confounded into a dismal melancholy; so that many chose death rather than life. Moreover many chose in order to avoid persecution and ravages to die to all the light of Reason and Revelation, which those systems require so as to make their consciences easy, but could not do it; but notwithstanding the stings of those poisonous beasts or dark principles, which were as poisonous to the spiritual mind, as the stings of scorpions to the body, yet they could not stifle the light of the Rational mind, but the tormenting truth would break in upon it, and "death would flee from them" as is manifested by the frequent testimonies of many against those dark principles, and the great exertions made to reform them. But all such were silenced by the power of the sword & of persecution. And on the other hand, the loss of all earthly enjoyments which were the consequence of refusal, tormented all their natural feelings, so that probably there never was any thing that ever caused such universal despondency and terror in the world, as the first rise of the Catholic and Mahometan powers, and their clashing operations until they came to their height, and became stationary. For a long time the life of human genius, learning and the arts were darkened, tormented and prevented from operation, all except those principles that tended to devastate the world and torment the rational mind. Hence rational men had to live under those tormenting operations. The shapes

of the locusts being like unto horses prepared unto battle" shows not only that their armies were chiefly horsemen, but also denotes their fierceness and rapidity of movements. It was a custom for their soldiers to wear a species of crown, doubtless to betoken their conquering power over the world; and their "faces being as the faces of men", shows that the vision alludes to men, and also that their system was of men; & likewise that they should have extraordinary integrity as men. And this is the character of the Mahometans in point of moral honesty, and fidelity of engagements to this day. And having "hair as the hair of women" shows that their hair in their costume would be plaited like that of women; but more particularly denoted that they were primarily drawn to their religion, and stimulated to their warlike deeds by the practice and promise of carnal lusts in this world, and many fold more in the world to come. For this was the highest degree of Mahometan Rewards in paradise. By "their teeth being as the teeth of Lions" shows their bravery and violent power to devour their enemies. In their armour they were "breast plated" and their furious marching and charges, may well be likened to "the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle". By their tails being "like scorpions, and having stings in their tails" denotes the extended influence, power, and poisonous quality of their principles; & also finally the destructive use of fire arms.

And who can doubt when we consider their destructive operations, more rapid and terrible than any thing before on earth, that their king was the destroying messenger of the bottomless pit, or the bottomless elements of fallen nature. For his name both in Hebrew and Greek signifies the destroyer. "And their power was to hurt men five Months" or torment

we do not find that they were persecuted Faithful
those who had not the seal of God, five Months. This in prophetic
language signifies each day for a year, which makes upwards of
150 years. Mahomet began his preaching in 612 and took the
sword about 622. from this time his followers spread their conquests
with amazing rapidity over the Catholic and Pagan world for about
150 years until it appeared as though they would devour the whole
world. At the same time protecting defenceless Jews & Heretics.
But after near 150 years from their first rise, in consequence
of a defeat they received from Charles Martel king of France
their career was checked, and they began to fall back, & built
Bagdad as their capitol, and became a stationary power, & have
never as Saracens, or proper descendants of the original Mahom-
etan empire, made any abiding conquests to add to their dominion
this was just about 150 years after Mahomet first began to
preach. Nevertheless their operations against the Catholicks
were the leading events in the world, and the principle theme
of prophecy and manifestation of principles, until they were
supplanted as head of the Mahometan power by the Turks,
Hence when that took place, it is said "one woe is past, & behold,
there came two more woes hereafter." That is, this trumpet
no longer declares the leading operations in the world, but
another has now begun, which manifests those leading events,
and another will do it when it begins to sound.

At the first rise of the Mahometan power a kind of
preternatural darkness affected the air, and obscured the light
of the Sun in a great degree during # five 8 months Months, namely,
from June to October. This appeared to be a sign that the
darkness foretold in this trumpet had begun, for it could not
be accounted for on any philosophic principles. It has been
usual for expositors to ascribe all the darkness manifested by

This # see Newton on Prophecies.

+ this was due to compleat the woes of the martyred souls under the altar.

this trumpet to "The Mahometan delusions"; but the most of them were borrowed from the Catholic system; and it was the clashing operations of the two systems that caused the terror, misery and torments thus foretold. Hence the antitype and substance of these locusts must be understood as the spiritual superstitions and fanatical and bloody principles which operated and darkened the world, and poisoned the soul and the rational understanding like the stings of scorpions and produced those effects which are the theme of history and the expositions of the learned.

"And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel that had the trumpet, Loose the four angels that are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month and a year, for to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen, were two hundred thousand thousand and I heard the number of them &c". Rev. 9. 13 to the end. The voice coming from the four horns of the golden altar before God, showed that these judgments were directed of God, for the transgressions of man against the pure principles both of the gospel and of nature — for the four horns show the superintendence of God in his providencial work, towards the four quarters or cardinal points of the earth which comprehend the whole world — And its being directed to the angel that had the trumpet, shows that he was a divine minister of providence, and that all those things are first moved in the world of spirits by spiritual powers.† When this trumpet sounded the terrible wars and domestic broils of both the Catholic and Mahometan powers, in the line of the saracens, had greatly weakened the strength of both, and their abominable works, and divided and

† this was also to complete the answer to the cry of the martyred souls under the altar.

inconsistent principles had so weakened their influence over the minds of all men, that they could support their authority no longer without some new impetus ; hence it appeared as though their power and their influence over mankind would have fallen, and would begin to leave them in a state to see and assert their natural and religious liberty, had not this new impetus been furnished by the rise of the Turkish power ; who rose with the vigour and growth of youth, and the valor of young men in their full strength - At the same time their councils were directed by the sagacity of age, by experience gathered from former ages. Hence they rushed on to battle, shielded by the Mahometan doctrine of predestination ; they appeared to believe that no dangers would shorten their lives, and that if they died in battle, they were sure of paradise ; therefore they rushed on to victory, and this revived the former charm of Mahometan invincibility, which want of success had almost destroyed. This was the test of true and faithful Mahometans, hence this want of success arising in the first place from the luxury and effeminacy of the Saracens, and as the consequence weakened their confidence of the rewards of bravery & sufferings in fighting for the faith. These things had greatly weakened the Rigid Mahometan faith. But when the Turks arose, being hardy bands of warriors, inured to the most rigid hardships of war, they soon restored success, and with it, the Moslem charm of invincibility, increased confidence that it was the true faith, in savage and untutored minds who supposed success in war to be the greatest mark of divine favour. And the rise of the Turks with their conquering power opened a new field for the superstition and fanaticism of the Catholicks to work, in setting on foot those disastrous wars, or crusades

for the recovery of what was called the holy land & holy sepulchre; from the impious hands of infidels: This infatuated the minds of princes and people as being paramount to all other duties. Also a sense of mutual danger among the Catholic world from the conquering power of the Turks, caused them to bury at times their disputes and unite in this more important object. Thus therefore a new and ample field was opened to the superstition, fanaticism and ambition of both Mahometans and Catholicks, by which horrors and scenes of blood, such as never before witnessed on earth; nay, not even in the fifth trumpet were perpetrated. And from the voice from the golden altar, we may see that the wickedness of the world was so great, that God would not suffer the scourging powers to fall; but in his providence renewed them with greater energy than ever before, to revenge the blood of his servants, and carry his divine judgments to the full height in this trumpet until the order of providence began to change and prepare the way for a dispensation of natural & spiritual light.

The Turks were originally bands of robbers who made a trade of war and hired themselves to serve in the armies of different princes, with whom they could get the best pay, and most plunder; and as the Mahometan religion was exactly fitted to their ferocious and warlike disposition, they embraced it; hence they served in Mahometan armies only after this time. But becoming powerful and many of them being in the armies of the eastern Countries, they united and suddenly seized Persia, and set up independence for themselves. They then began to make war upon the neighboring Countries both Catholic and Mahometan. Upon the former for territory, and the latter to obtain the headship of the Mahometan world; which they finally effected,

and formed an immence empire. There was evidently two principal eras in this trumpet, as the angel that sounded the trumpet was commanded to loose the four angels that were bound by the River Euphrates; hence it must be that the principles of the sixth seal had been a long time in operation; and that the great earthquake had begun and the darkness & terrible confusion and despair foretold in the sixth seal had come to a great height, so as to bring forth those awful effects that followed by loosing the four messengers of judgment, that had been restrained by providence so as to advance no further in Christendom, than from their eastern seat of power to the River Euphrates. The Turks for a long time made no conquest beyond this River, this was partly caused by their being divided into four kingdoms, and from the ambition of different chiefs they could not unite under one Government so that their power was comparitively weak to what it was when it became united under one head.* But at length they united under Ottoman, or Otteman, from whom sprang a race of the most warlike and succesful princes recorded in history; their power now appeared invincible, they became the head of the Mahometan world, and led nearly all the power of the Mahometan nations in their train, when they advanced beyond the Euphrates and united in one power and object, though this took place before they were consolidated into one empire, here began the loosing of the four angels. Their conquests were then rapid and extensive, until at length they took Constantinople and made it the seat of their empire & completely overturned the eastern Roman or Greek empire, for this, the way was prepared by the dissensions of the pretended Christians about the useless forms of their Religion; hence this was a

* or in this state they had been able to sustain the assaults of all the battle powers, & expel them.

final judgment upon them, for their corrupting every principle of the gospel, and setting up a corrupt form without the power and contending about the shadow instead of the life of the gospel. From this time the Turks took possession of the eastern leg of the Roman and Catholic world, and thus their power became one of the legs of Nebuchadnezzer's image, as interpreted by Daniel. But this has been heretofore explained, and hence it is not needful to dwell upon it in this place.

In order fully to understand the manifestations of this trumpet, we must take it in connection with the sixth seal. By the opening of this seal we have seen that a great earthquake cast the stars to the earth, a mineral darkness followed and every institution of strength and safety were moved out of their places. This well describes the state of the world both Catholic and Mahometan. When the empire of the Romans was divided among the Barbarians and the power of the pope was established as the supreme head of the Catholic world, and became a temporal prince, and after the death of Charles the Great, rose to be superior in both civil and ecclesiastical power to any monarch of the Catholic world. And the Mahometan Saracen empire and religion, was established over a large part of the earth.

By the cotemporary operations of these two systems nearly all the ancient systems and powers were shaken to pieces and overthrown as has been before shown. Charlemaigne having set up the last head of the beast, and the empire being divided after his death, caused ultimately those rival interests among the Christian powers, that weakened and divided their power and thus facilitated the conquests of the Turks. The sixth seal therefore began to be opened, when the

papal Hierarchy with the pope at its head became estab-
lished with supreme power. From the time that the pope
became a temporal prince, and rose to authority beyond any
prince in the Catholic world; which was from about the
middle of the ninth Century until the rise of the Turks in
the eleventh Century. All historians agree in calling the
most dark period of the world. It appears as though every star
of light in both the spiritual and natural orders of man, were
cast to the corrupt earthly state and extinguished. The papal
power ~~was~~ was enabled to cast down every light, both spiritual
and natural, that stood in opposition to its dark, base, and
supremely corrupted principles; and it seemed as though
an universal apathy to all light and improvement had
seized nearly all mankind. And there seemed to be a
struggle for light and improvement just beginning, ‡ when
the attention of men were called off under the new infatuated
fanaticism of holy wars: therefore the sixth trumpet
began to manifest the real fruit of the principles & seeds
unsealed by the sixth seal; when the pope began to lead
the nations of Christendom into Religious wars and holy
crusades, blasphemously so called. During this time, the
Turks were rising in power, and soon came in collision
with the Catholic powers, by taking Jerusalem, which
opened the way for the Crusades for the recovery of the
holy land and sepulchre. These wars began about the
close of the eleventh Century, and continued 200 years.
During this time all the Christian and Mahometan
powers were engaged in their turn, and they gave rise
to the most dark superstitions and fanatical principles
and conduct that had ever before been on earth, and such

‡ For there was not only a pause continuation between the sovereign & the people; but the English & German nations, of those the beginning of the papal authority.

bloody wars, persecution, licentiousness, and horrid cruelties as seemed to throw all others before them into the shade, such multitudes of armies were also raised as never were before in the same length of time. Here the full power of the antichristian beast was displayed. And the Mahometan was equally so. Whether the Turkish and Tartar armies, all that they ever did or will bring into the field, would make the number stated in the vision we have no certain data to ascertain, but I believe could it be known it would be about that number; at any rate it shows that the numbers would be immense. Their armies were composed chiefly of horsemen, and millions of men fell in these wars.‡ But the Turks finally obtained the mastery & expelled the Catholicks.

They then united under one strong Government, invaded Christendom in their turn with that success that threatened to devour the whole Christian world. They were now assisted by fire arms, described by the vision as horses having heads like lions, that "out of their mouth issued fire and smoke and brimstone". These were great pieces of artilery, of which the Turks had some of the largest ever known; and their tails being "like serpents, and having heads, and with them they do hurt." These are small arms for their power is in their mouths and in their tails," these were therefore their arms. "And by these were the third part of men slain, by the fire and by the smoke and by the brimstone that issued out of their mouths" perhaps no plainer similitude of fire arms could well be drawn, so plain that the learned have generally agreed that this is the solution; but they err in supposing that the trumpet did not begin to sound until Ottoman united the four Turkish powers; It would be unreasonable to suppose, that the sixth

‡ It is that 40 millions perished on the Catholic side.

trumpet which is generally allowed to treat of the Turkish pow
and operations as the leading theme, should be confined to their
operations after the end of the crusades, which were more impor
tant than afterwards, when the Ottoman empire had begun
by their being consolidated as one power. Therefore the former
manifestations of this trumpet must relate to their operations
from their first rise to this period. And after the four angels
were loosed, it relates to their invasion of Christendom, (so
called) when united as one power to the end of the power of
their empire.

There can be no reasonable doubt that the vision
also included the terrible wars and devastations of the Tartars
whose armies were likewise mostly horsemen, and assisted
by fire arms; of which and of powder, "the fire, smoke, and
brimstone" "their power" it is not difficult to prove that they
were the first inventers, long before it was accidentally
discovered in Europe. These were first brought into use by
the Tartar and Turkish armies. These Tartars were of the
same origin as the Turks, and in these dark ages, conquered
nearly all Asia and a great part of Europe, overturned the
Saracen empire, and shed more blood while the crusades
were going on, than was shed even in them, & according to
all accounts, far more than was ever known to be shed on earth in the
same space of time. It would be inconsistent then to believe
that the vision should be wholly confined to the Turks, as the
only operators in this woe trumpet, whilst for a time a
much greater work of woe was going on in the world, and
take no notice of that. But whether during the time that
this trumpet was the manifester of the leading events in the
world, one litteral third of mankind were slain by those

wars and their effects, we cannot certainly ascertain, yet we have reason to believe that it can fall little short; but at any rate those engaged in them were in the third or earthly part, and such all lost their spiritual lives, which is the substance of the principles of the vision. During this trumpet, the pope assumed and maintained the power of excommunicating and deposing the greatest monarchs in Christendom, by virtue of his spiritual authority as "God upon Earth" and the horrible tribunal of the inquisition for the suppression of Heresy, was established; this completed the universal darkness & tyranny of the world; for the Mahometans learnt the work of persecution from the Catholicks, and there was no earthly tribunal to protect the weak and innocent; but the most infernal spiritual tyranny governed the world; truly the Sun of the world was turned into darkness, and its Moon into blood.

St John next proceeds to show the cry of "The mighty angel at whose cry seven thunders uttered their voices", and he was about to write but was commanded to seal up those things, which the seven thunders uttered and write them not"† These were the united voices of the seven spirits, the full manifestation of which could not be made until the seventh age. Then they would be manifested, and all their thunders would be heard & operate and produce the final shaking which would effect the work of the latter day; therefore the angel set one foot upon the sea, and the other upon the land, (which signifies time and eternity, for as no man can see that which is in the depth of the sea so no man without divine Revelation can see what is in eternity) and "sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, that there should be time no longer; but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished."

† Revs. chap. 10

* the German surname as head of all the sect...

This 13th Chapter of Rev. treats of things in the order of final events, which took place before those things spoken of in the 12th Chapter — Yet, the travail of the woman began before the beast was compleated; hence the things in the 12th Chapter are first mentioned.

This angel from his description and his testimony is evidently the mighty messenger, and forerunner of the second appearing of Christ, or, "the sign of the son of man" which Christ foretold would appear and precede his coming. Matt 24..30. And he further proceeds to show the work of the witnesses of truth until the commencement of this final work. He then shows us his vision of the monstrous beast that would continue until the last trumpet and final work of Christ. The sixth trumpet was the proper place to describe this new Catholic beast, for its organization was not completed until Charlemagne united the divided powers of the Roman world under one empire; ~~re established~~ *the pope with supreme ecclesiastical power over the whole and made him also a temporal prince. "Even he is the eighth and is of the seven" Then was the beast completed in all his original organization. #

About this time the principles of the sixth seal were fully manifested, for the original empire of the Mahometans was also completed about the same time. This began an entire new era in the world, for it was divided between these two elementary powers as rivals and the leading operators of all systems and wars on earth. The opening of this seal brought those principles into operation; this fully in operation began about the close of the eighth century & thenceforth increased. And when these principles had come to their strength so as to produce a renewal of the power of the Catholic empire under the spiritual influence of the pope, so that he could bring out all the force and powers of the whole beast, under the highest religious phrenzy, to propagate and defend the Catholic faith. And the Mahometan hierarchy was also equally renewed in its power by the fanaticism and energy of the Turks, so that they could command the force of all its powers. Then those

* head of all the antichrist made the seventh head, & also established

"he did according to his will" Dan 11.36 Alliance

two general powers shook the whole world by their wars and clashing principles under a profession, each of defending and propagating "the true faith." They contended with all their power for the mastery and deluged the earth with blood and carnage and woe. When the sixth trumpet, or second woe trumpet began to sound, and declared the effects of the principles opened by this sixth seal. This trumpet began about the close of the tenth Century, by dividing the Saracen empire into seven kingdoms showing the same principles as the seven heads of the beast. And that the Moslem power when completed was based upon the same elements of nature, but it was under another form, a system of the same universal beast of fallen nature, which in its fullness comprehends all nations in this fallen world, & a cooperator with the beast: for all the works of man and all his organization of powers on earth, are but bringing forth himself showing the elements of man. But this division facilitated the rise of the Turks as the leading Mahometan power; so also did the divided state of the Catholic powers facilitate the supremacy of the papal power, for there was no power of civil Government over the whole, of course no one power.* about the same time the pope began to call out the Catholic powers to wage holy wars; and when both parties got these principles of superstitious fanaticism in sufficient strength in operation, they then met in mighty combat. And when those clashing principles had spent their force one against the other; they then ceased their Religious combats, finding it useless; and the Turks came into the system of the balance of powers, whereby the world began to be so balanced as to prevent any consolidation of universal empire. From this period mankind had time to examine those fanatical and tyranical principles which had operated in the dark ages

* That ruined consolidate with the Pope. Hence the "did according to the will." Therefore

and thus began to learn the rights of man, and to see more the dignity of his nature. This prepared the way for the seventh and last trumpet. Through the operation of "the mighty angel that worked through the rising of the witnesses of right principles both natural and spiritual, and produced the great earthquake spoken of Rev 11. 13. This is the preparatory work for the millenium and is the same that is now working in the world and will never cease until all tyranical and corrupt systems are broken to pieces.

"And the seventh angel sounded, and there were great voices in heaven saying, The kingdoms of this world are become of our Lord and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever". # This ushered in the last age, and the final and decisive work of God, in which all souls will be finally judged & receive their reward. And all the principles of good and evil will be seperated be made manifest and be placed in their final order. This work now finally begun never to end until all power is made to bow before God, and all things in heaven and earth will be brought to silence before him, agreeable to the seventh seal. Therefore the 24 Elders, the primary ministers of the first and second appearing of Christ, were now to be brought into one, and manifest the true nature, order and power of this final work and praise God for executing judgment, and taking his great power and reigning over all things. This work will raise the anger of the nations of the earth in fallen nature more than any thing that was ever before manifested. But they cannot escape the wrath of God which will destroy all their false systems and tyranical institutions, and establish his everlasting kingdom. The voices in heaven, are the calls of God, in the seven days or times of the voice of this trumpet, which operate both in providence and grace; by which all the

Rev. 11. 15.

fruits of the seeds sown and principles that operated in the seven ages will become ripe and be harvested, and the mystery of God will be finished, and "The kingdom of this world become of our God and his Christ." Hence the true "temple of God is opened in heaven", and the ark of his testament will be fully manifested and seen in the testimony of "The everlasting gospel" and in the heavenly order of his saints. Undoubtedly this trumpet began to sound at the rising of the witnesses, when liberty of conscience was first established; for then the operations of those principles began that in their progress will effect the work declared by this trumpet. This was about the beginning of the eighteenth century. And the lightenings and thunderings and earthquake are the operations of the same shaking powers mentioned at the rising of the witnesses,* by which the work will be carried on to the end; but we need not particularly describe the operations of this trumpet, for the whole testimony of the gospel and the operations of the principles now in the world are an explanation of its work; which will never cease until God has finished his whole work with man.

The vision in the 12 Chapter proceeds to show the agent of the work of this trumpet, under the figure of "a woman in heaven clothed with the sun", which means the light of the eternal spiritual sun of righteousness, or the very nature of God, And having on her head a crown of 12 stars, showing that she professed the original elements of the 12 primary virtues.*1 And having the Moon under her feet, shows that she was above the earth and light of nature which was under her feet and subservient to her, in the same manner as God says, "heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool" This was the divine spirit of wisdom or Holy Ghost

* This which the woman is represented as crying with a loud voice, saying, Fear God and give glory to him, for the hour of his judgment is come, and worship him that made heaven and earth, the sea and the fountains of waters, is the first time that any judgment is declared as coming upon a people so as to give glory to God. This is the first time that any people have been called upon to take heed unto this trumpet. Now can this be applied to any other people than to the Messiah's kingdom? Can any other people be called upon to take heed unto this trumpet, or to worship the Lord God, even the Father of Jesus Christ, who made heaven and earth, the sea and the fountains of waters, but the Messiah's kingdom? Now this is the very work which is to be done by the trumpet of the seventh angel, and the very people that are to do it. Now can any other people be found to do this work but the Messiah's kingdom? Now this is the very work which is to be done by the trumpet of the seventh angel, and the very people that are to do it. Now can any other people be found to do this work but the Messiah's kingdom?

*1, See Millennial Chart.

who brought forth the son of God; and who was thus before united during those dark ages as travelling in pain to bring forth the same Divine elements as were in him, for the regeneration of the world; under the figure of the man child or the ward of God which was to rule all nations with a rod of iron, that is, break in pieces all corrupt & tyranical systems and powers of men, and execute final and righteous judgment upon all. This is the spirit that is now moving all things natural and spiritual, and which will never cease its operations until the whole work of God is accomplished. And by whom the beast of antichrist described in the next chapter will be destroyed "& his body given to the burning flame." The 14th chapter describes the character & nature of the final kingdom of Christ, brought to light on mount Zion; & the true work & character of its subjects. And the preaching of "the everlasting gospel to every nation, tongue & kindred. (which in its results will finally destroy Great Babylon, The Great Catholic Hierarchy, & all national Religions, & all others supported by human authority with power over the conscience, where merchandise is made of slaves & souls of men, that is, where men are made spiritual slaves & sell their souls for the pleasures & riches of this world, see Rev 18.13.) And will effect the harvest of the world. Chap. 14. Thus therefore we see that we are now according to all the visions and prophecies of God, living in the last age of the world, and under the sound of the last trumpet. And may we wisely improve our day, O that all mankind knew this great day of their visitation, and would wisely consider and labor to have a just portion therein.